

Tales of Walnut Hill



By Robert Summa

Volume 5



Welcome to the Tales of Walnut Hill

We have a rich history we will share as you read this book. We will look at the past and the all-time greats that left their mark on the history of Walnut Hill: the masters of rifle shooting and pistol shooting. They generated the spirit of the Hill through competitive shooting. What they built and shot was a challenge. They were the distinguished shooters of the Hill. They came from all over the country to shoot at Walnut Hill. We have Harry Pope, the greatest barrel maker of his time and a master rifle shooter. We have Niedner, an all-time great, a master rifle shooter, and one of the top gun smiths of his time who chased Geronamo all over the southwest in the 6th Calvary. Then there is Dr. Mann, the father of ballistics, who in 1909 published *The Bullet's Flight* in his quest for the magic bullet and the magic barrel for the perfect score with the perfect rifle. He was a medical doctor and gave up his practice for his quest in ballistics. Then there are D. L. F. Chase, Ned Roberts, Horace Warner, H. V. Perry, Norman Brockway, C. W. Rowland, H. L. Willard, E. A. Leopold, W. V. Lowe, the Russell brothers, Arthur Corbin Gould, N. C. Nash, O. E. Gerrish, John Kelley, Will Hayes, Dr. W. G. Hudson, the great offhand shot Adolph Strecker, Dr. Baker, L. P. Hansen, Young, Mr. Fry, Daniel Fox, Major Hinman, F.J. Rabbeth and Professor Bell, Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Briggs, E. E. Patridge. All are the masters of the rifle. The masters of pistol are C. Paine, Tom Anderton, Eugene Patridge, and Dorothy Knight at Walnut Hill. The riflemen of the Hill, having looked at the American militia team's defeat at Creedmoor, decided to do something about it, so they trained a militia rifle team. Some were members of Walnut Hill and knew the game of long range shooting, and were sent to Creedmoor where they won every event entered. The Walnut Hill riflemen were men of stature: doctors, engineers, and masters of their trade. They were men that enjoyed the shooting sport and did all they could to preserve it for the future generations to come. They shot offhand at ranges of 600, 800, 900, and 1000 yards, holding the finest rifles of their day. H. Pope was the father of the gane twist rifle barrel. Pope and Niedner made barrels for Dr. Mann.

All proceeds from the selling of these books will go to the Massachusetts Rifle Association to preserve the history of the M.R.A. through our Museum. If you can help, I thank you. I am looking for old photos of Walnut Hill to share with our membership. The one thing I have learned about history: if someone does not record it, it is lost for all time. But these books will present a vast history which we will share with the world. As you read and look at all the photos, know the books will be a treasure for future generations after we have all come and gone. The books detail the Tales of Walnut Hill. And we will only print 100 books in each series, for this is truly a limited edition!

Robert Summa
M.R.A. Historian at the Walnut Hill Range

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The Massachusetts Rifle Association

Tales of Walnut Hill

Volume 5

I dedicate this book in memory of

John Bucci

John was a great friend to use all at Walnut Hill, his Spirit will live on in our Hearts and Mind to the end of time for he is a great part of the greatest story ever told John was a Rifleman of Walnut Hill. He was a member of the distinguished Buffalo Shooters of the Hill and loved reading the history in the series of books called The Legacy of Walnut Hill His memory will be the eternal flame at M.R.A. Walnut Hill to the end of time.

Go in peace, my brother, for God will be your guide on this next great adventure.

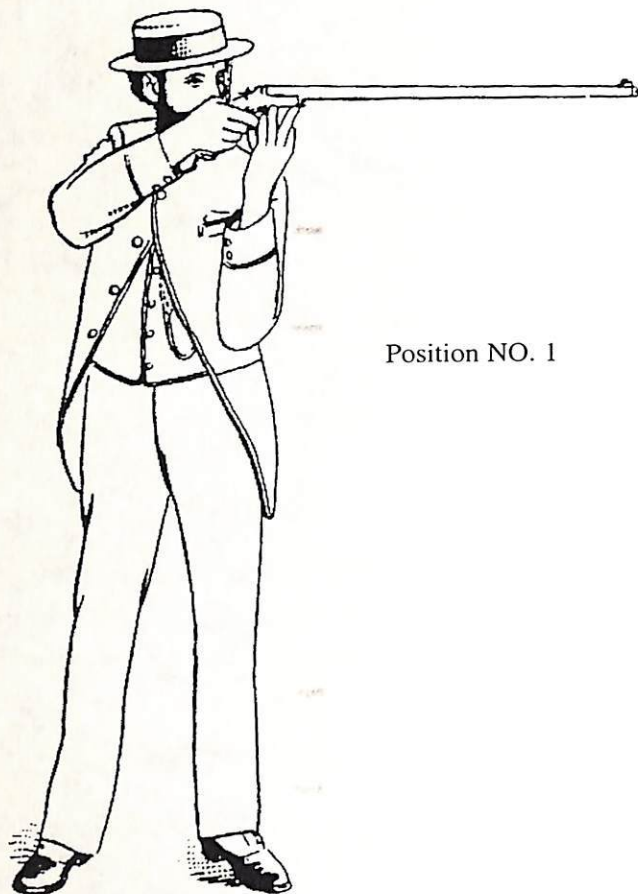
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Introduction

You are about to go on a journey into the past. At the end of this road is the Massachusetts Rifle Association, the oldest shooting range in the United States. We have been shooting at Walnut Hill from 1875 to the present day; the stories and questions have not changed over the years. I hope you'll enjoy these unique stories and viewing photos of the time. The stories are very informative and record the bonding and respect of the many men and women of the era. Some of these stories are tragic, and will bring a tear to your eye. They'll cover rifles, pistols, trap shooting, hunting, and fishing trips by the members of Walnut Hill. It's like rubbing the magical lamp of Aladdin, reliving the myths and legends of the Hill. That genie of discovery has made possible the contributions of rich knowledge, accomplishments, and achievements, which have been hidden for centuries in the dark vaults of the M.R.A., waiting to be shared with the new generation of the Hill. All I can say is that there's something in the air at Walnut Hill—or it's the magic and intrigue of the all-time greats that have entered the hallowed ground of the Walnut Hill Legend!

Mr. E. F. Richardson



Position NO. 1

America's Crack Rifle Shot

We have shown, in previous numbers, two different styles of holding the rifle, the hip-rest and the strictly off-hand position. The gentlemen who adopted these positions have distinguished themselves by the fine shooting done holding the rifle in the manner described. They admit they have tried the various styles of holding, and finally chose the one which suited them best and in which they could hold steadiest.

We have chosen as the subject of our sketch for the present issue one well known by name by the rifle-shooting fraternity, and who has, proved himself a fine shot in both the hip-rest and off-hand position, and we hazard little in asserting that this gentleman, Mr. E. F. Richardson, is as fine a rifle-shot as can be found in this or any other country.

Mr. Richardson commenced shooting on the rifle-range in 1879. Nearly all of his shooting has been done with a Maynard rifle, and a record of the numerous tests and experiments he has made would fill many columns. The barrel first used, was 30 inches long, and with which he did magnificent work; but in a short time he cut from the barrel two inches, still doing the same fine shooting, and still later another two inches taken off, leaving it 26 inches in length, and notwithstanding this change the same high and perfect scores continued to be made and he states that the 26-inch barrel suited him best in holding, and he could never see but what the short barrel did as fine work off-hand or at a rest as when of greater length; and it is worthy of note that the best Shooting done with this barrel was when 26 inches long. The caliber was 40, charge of powder 60 grains, and the bullet 330 grains patched. A shot-gun buttplate is used, and for sights generally an aperture of very large size and thick edge. While an aperture-sight is generally preferred by Mr. Richardson, he occasionally uses a pinhead, and one of his finest scores made on the Massachusetts target was on a day when his regular sight was accidentally broken and he was compelled to make a sight at the range, which he did by taking a tooth from his pocketcomb and ingeniously arranging it as a sight.

Illustration No. 1 shows the position in which this gentleman generally shoots. It will be observed that it is the hip-rest style of holding. He has made most of his high scores shooting in this style, but he is able to shoot equally well in the position No. 2, as shown by our engraving; and he asserts, were it not for the fatigue of shooting in position No. 2, he would prefer that manner of holding. Soon after this gentleman commenced shooting on the riflerange, he greatly disturbed a few of the riflemen who had held best position for some time, by equalling and generally surpassing them in the weekly contests. It was then that there were hints about prohibiting the hip-rest position, and it being intimated to Mr. Richardson that he had a great advantage in being able to shoot in his position he temporarily adopted the style shown in Figure No. 2, (see page 8 for photo) with the arm entirely free from the body, and while shooting in this manner recorded a full and perfect score of ten consecutive bull's-eyes in a regular match. He occasionally shoots with the arm extended at full length, but more generally uses the hip-rest style, as an accident some years ago injured him and deprived him of the strength usually allotted to most men, and consequently, from delicate health, he finds shooting with the arm extended fatigues him far more than in the position generally used by him.

A few years ago the Mammoth rifle gallery was a favorite place of resort for New England riflemen. The range was fifty yards in length, fitted with iron targets with a bull's-eye two inches in diameter, the bullet had to strike inside of this circle to ring the gong. A sign hung upon the wall for many months announcing that twenty dollars in gold would be paid for eight consecutive bull's-eyes. Mr. Richardson visited the gallery, and to the dismay of the proprietor scored three full

scores; and the same day called at another gallery where fifteen dollars was paid for clean scores of ten shots, and made a perfect score in a short time.

The shooting done by Mr. Richardson out of doors, at a distance of 100 yards, has excited the admiration of all who have seen his brilliant work. Several times when he has secured nine bull's-eyes the excitement among his associates was so great that all shooting would cease, and in the face of this trying ordeal, known only to the rifleman who has one more bull's-eye to make to record a perfect score, with all eyes upon him, he would walk to the firing point and with a calmness calculated to provoke envy as well as admiration, would almost invariably plant his bullet in the centre of the black. Once, before the days of legislation in the association to which he belongs permitted a shot on the wrong target to be claimed by payment of a double fine, he made his tenth bull's-eye on the wrong target and lost a perfect score.

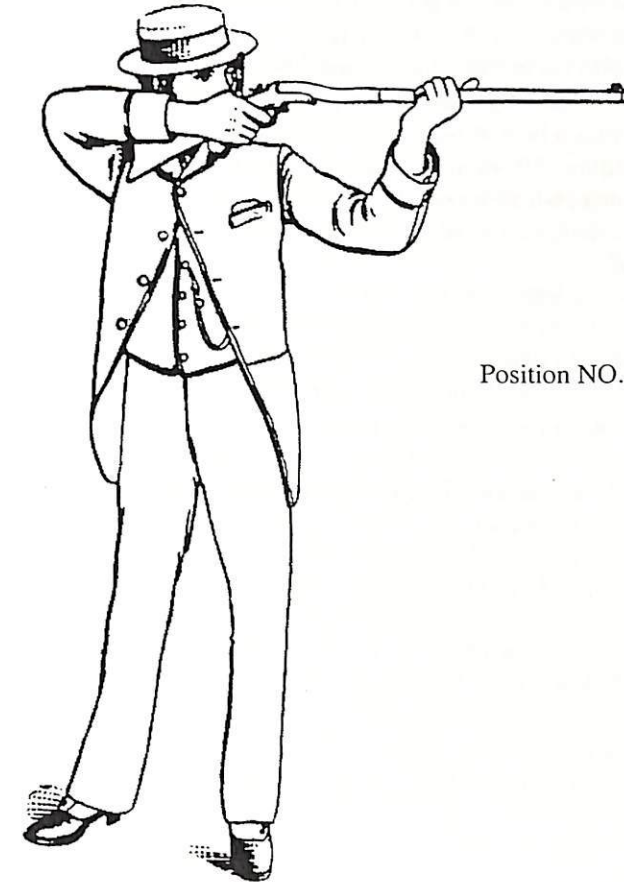
From the commencement of this gentleman's rifle-shooting career to within a few weeks he used a 40-caliber barrel on his Maynard rifle. Last month he purchased a 35-calibre barrel, and the second time it was used by Mr. Richardson was at the spring meeting of the Lawrence Rifle Club; here he not only made three perfect scores, recording the highest possible and two points better than any rifleman present, but eclipsed all of his previous performances by making a run of 27 consecutive bull's-eyes on a paper target; a feat never before performed in a match under regulation rules.

In loading, but one shell is used, which is reloaded after each shot; a wad of blotting paper or similar material, is placed over the powder nearly flush with the top of the shell. The bullet is placed in the barrel with a plug.

Among the clean scores made by this gentleman, in regular matches, are the following:

Oct. 6, 1880 - Medford, Mass., Creedmoor Match, 7 shots 35
 Oct. 11, 1880 - Medford, Mass., Creedmoor Match, 7 shots 35
 Oct. 14, 1880 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Creedmoor Match, 7 shots 35
 Oct. 14, 1880 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Massachusetts Target match, 7 shots 79
 Feb. 26, 1881 - Record Match, Walnut Hill, Mass., Creedmoor Target, 10 shots 50
 Sept. 3, 1881 - Sharpshooter's Match, Walnut Hill, Mass., Massachusetts Target, 10 shots 115 Oct. 6, 1881 - Fall Meeting, Medford, Mass., Creedmoor Target, 7 shots 35
 Oct. 6, 1881 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Creedmoor Target, shots 35
 June 16, 1882 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Creedmoor Target, 7 shots 35
 June 16, 1882 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Massachusetts Target, shots 63
 June 7, 1882 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Massachusetts Target, 7 shots 60
 June 17, 1882 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Massachusetts Target, 7 shots 60
 June 17, 1882 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Massachusetts Target, 7 shots 64
 Aug. 3, 1882 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Creedmoor Target, 10 shots 50
 Aug. 12, 1882 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Massachusetts Decimal Target, 10 shots 92
 Aug. 26, 1882 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Massachusetts Decimal Target, 10 shots 92
 No.v. 16, 1882 - Wakefield, Mass., Creedmoor Target, 7 shots 35
 Nov. 16 1882 - Wakefield, Mass., Creedmoor Target, 7 shots 35
 Dec. 4. 1882 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Creedmoor Target, 10 shots 50
 Oct. 13, 1883 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Massachusetts Decimal Target, shots
 May 31, 1884 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Creed moor Target, shots . 35

May 23, 1885 - Lawrence, Mass., Creedmoor Target, 7 shots 35
 May 23, 1885 - Lawrence, Mass., Creedmoor Target, 7 shots 35
 May 23, 1885 - Lawrence, Mass., Creedmoor Target, 7 shots 35
 May 30, 1885 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Creedmoor Target, 7 shots 35
 May 30, 1885 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Creedmoor Target, 7 shots 35
 May 30, 1885 - Walnut Hill, Mass., Creedmoor Target, 7 shots 35



Position NO. 2

The Death of E. F. Richardson

April 11, 1892. The rifle shooting fraternity of this country will be grieved and shocked to learn of the tragic death of Elton F. Richardson, which occurred by his own hands at Reading, Mass., April 11, 1892. Mr. Richardson was found dead on the kitchen floor of his house on the morning of the 11th inst., with a discharged shotgun by his side, and a poker in his hand, which he had apparently used to discharge the gun. Death must have been instantaneous, as both barrels of the gun were discharged, and the charges passed through his heart.

The cause of this shocking death was despondency, and was shown in a brief note the deceased left, in which he alluded to his depression, and stated that his brain was greatly confused. It was well known by Mr. Richardson's friends that he had for years suffered mentally and physically, and, being of an extremely sensitive organization, his trouble undoubtedly influenced him to take his own life.

Some twenty years ago he had the misfortune to lose one of his limbs, and, although his artificial limb enabled him to walk so well that very few persons knew of his loss, the limb troubled him, constantly interfering with his occupation as a machinist. His general health was also very poor, obliging him to give up work frequently. Besides his poor health were domestic afflictions. A few years ago he buried his wife, to whom he had been married but a short time, and later, his mother, in whom all his affection seemed centred. He would frequently bring his mother, a loveable old lady of over seventy years, to the rifle range, where he would seem to take great pride in exhibiting his wonderful skill to her, and she seemed delighted at all of her son's triumphs. Mr. Richardson never seemed the same man after his mother's death.

Mr. Richardson was esteemed by all who knew him. He was strictly abstemious in his habits, was extremely modest and reticent, honorable in all his dealings, and possessed an unblemished character. As a rifleman perhaps no one in America was better known. His skill in off-hand shooting was wonderful. He commenced shooting about fifteen years ago, and in a few months was recognized as among the best off-hand shots in the country. Early in his career there were two rifle galleries in Boston one offering \$20 for a perfect score of bullseyes; the other offered \$10 for a similar performance. Mr. Richardson visited these galleries, and in one afternoon made three perfect scores at the former, and one at the latter. His skill caused the proprietors of the galleries to discontinue their offers. He made a great number of 7 and 10-shot clean scores at 200 yards, off-hand. On Aug. 26, 1882 he made a score of 92 in 10 shots, off-hand, on Massachusetts Decimal target. On May 23, 1885, at the Spring Meeting of the Lawrence Rifle Club he made 27 consecutive bull's-eyes, in the 200 yards, off-hand match. On July 11, of the same year he made 31 consecutive bull's-eyes under the same conditions. Some of his other scores are as follows: Oct. 7, 1887, in a 7-shot match, on Standard American target, score of 67 out of 70; Dec. 18, 1886, 10 shots, on same target, off-hand, at 200 yards, score of 95; and on April 5, 1889, secured the same aggregate; May 21, 1887, 50 shots, similar conditions, score 447.

Mr. Richardson was forty-two years of age, weight, 140 lbs.; height, 6 feet 2 inches; eyes, hazel; hair, black.

A Tribute to E. F. Richardson

Shortly after the shooting began at the range of the Wilmington Rifle Club today some one, who had found time to read his *Shooting and Fishing*, announced the sad death of Mr. E. F. Richardson. The impressive silence which followed told more than words can express the sincere regret felt for the untimely death of that wellknown and universally respected rifleman. Mr. Richardson was well known here, by reputation of course, as he was on most ranges, but much was known, also, of his many admirable traits as a man, so that the sorrow which was felt for his loss was as of a valued friend and trusted leader. Such men are too few not to be sadly missed. It is the preponderance of personal character such as Mr. Richardson possessed which guides and keeps our noble sport in the sound channel of respectability. There was nothing of the blather-skite champion or charlatan marksman about Mr. Richardson. Everything he did was genuine and consistent with the high purposes of art. Far above that, his almost marvellous achievements were always accompanied by an unassuming modesty, which invariably stamps the man of merit. While such men as he are in the position of welllearned and conscientious leadership of American marksmanship no selfrespecting rifleman need ever feel obliged to apologize for his sport or its associations.

As the fraternity gathers this week, as it no doubt will from Maine to California, in a figurative sense, beside the newllymade grave of Mr. Richardson, let us draw the veil of silence over the means which he took to shorten his life. It is not for us to judge of such acts as this. We do not know the human heart; we hardly know our own, therefore are incapable of weighing the sorrows which oppress and overbalance the wavering will of a finely attuned and sensitive organization. As we figuratively strew his grave with the wreaths of our regrets, and mourn the untimely end of a life of usefulness, we shall have the consciousness that American manhood and sportsmanship were fitly dignified by the character and skill of Elton F. Richardson.

Wilmington, Del. Howard Simpson

Rifle and Pistol Championship in Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Rifle Association has concluded to offer two elegant medals, of unusual value, open to all comers who are residents of Massachusetts; one of the medals shall represent the rifle championship, the other the pistol championship of the State. The details of the matches are not yet arranged, but it is probable that the conditions will call for 20 shots in the rifle match, and 30 shots in the pistol match; in the former the shooting will be with any rifle within the M.R.A. rules, at 200 yards off-hand and on Standard target. The pistol match will be shot at 50 yards on the same target. The first contests will probably be shot at Walnut Hill in the near future, and will be extensively advertised, so as to give all desiring to compete an opportunity to do so. After the first contests the holders of these medals will be subject to challenges by any one in the State, and when such matches are shot, as many other individuals as desire, who are residents of the State, may enter and compete in such contests.

The rifle match and the pistol match are separate contests, but similarly arranged. It is the wish of the association to bring together in friendly contest, expert riflemen and pistol shots from Boston, Springfield, Worcester, Lawrence, Haverhill and other sections of the State, and the trophies offered will be valuable and worthy of a struggle. Details of the match will be published in these columns as they are arranged.

April 23, 1892. Weather conditions: light, variable, bright most of the day; wind strong, ranging from seven to eleven o'clock; atmosphere dry and chilly.

There was a good attendance of riflemen at this range today, each department of shooting being well represented

This is the time of year when the mornings are bright and the atmosphere still, which leads the riflemen to believe a good day for rifle shooting is at hand; but as the day advances the flitting clouds appear, occasionally obscuring the sun; this annoys the riflemen, especially those shooting at rest and trying to hit the "tack hole" in the twelve circle. When the bright sunshine bursts from some cloud while the rest shooter is aiming and firing, it is not likely to make his heart glad, but on the contrary elicit some strong words; for the scorer is likely to say: A ten at twelve o'clock, and then follows the ejaculation: Confound that sun! or words to that effect.

The off-hand shooters about Boston are likely to note the weather conditions on Saturday mornings, and, if favorable, will perhaps take the early train for the range; before they reach that haven for riflemen they are quite likely to see the wind blowing erratically, and when the wind blows at Walnut Hill, it takes the conceit out of the average rifleman.

To-day the first remark the writer heard on arriving at the range was: "Are we ever going to have a decent day for shooting? Not one this year, so far." At which one of the new arrivals, in his glee at learning that his closest rival had not made a big score, re-marked

"A rifleman's world would be stale and flat Were nothing left to grumble at."

The rest shooters, by carefully watching the wind, and shooting several scores, managed in some instances to roll up good aggregates.. Mr. Wilder divided his time in experimenting with some bullets patched with tissue paper, and later those of factory make; the former did good work, but the user believes much greater care must be used in shooting them, on account of liability to tear the delicate patches.

During the afternoon Mr. Thompson had the misfortune to break the mainspring of his Ballard rifle, which drove him to shooting a strange rifle.

At the end of the day it was shown that 110 was top score, Mr. Francis and Mr. Wilder each having this total to their credit; and Mr. J. French was top man in the Seal Medal Match.

In off-hand shooting Messrs. Eastman and Sydney had their usual spurt, with equal honors In one match; but during the afternoon Mr. Eastman was struck with a spell of holding, and had the satisfaction of laying a score of 87 on the shooting bench of Mr. Sydney.

Mr. W. C. Johnston, Jr., one of the team of volunteers which visited England three years ago, has dropped the military rifle, and is now shooting a .32-caliber match rifle, and, as the scores will show, with excellent results.

It is a noticeable fact that many of the fine military rifle shots who shoot at Walnut Hill devote most of their practice to shooting with a match rifle; a week or two before the State shoot, or longer, if training for an international or interstate contest, they will give their attention to practicing with the Springfield rifle. This excited the curiosity of the writer, and he could not resist inquiring of a prominent rifleman the reason for shooting the less practical but more accurate arm. The reply was substantially as follows: The match rifle is a better instrument with which to study the art of rifle shooting, for it is more reliable, and errors in holding are more vividly shown; with a perfect match rifle, correctly sighted, one knows if the shot is not well in the bull's-eye the fault is with the rifleman; if a shot is out of the bull's-eye when using a military rifle or a hunting rifle the fault may be with the rifle, ammunition, or crude sights, and often errors in holding are unobserved.

There were many military marksmen shooting to-day. There were a number from the Naval Battalion shooting Lee rifles, and volunteers from various other organizations shooting Springfield rifles. Lieut. G.L. Marshall's score of 47 and another of 45, with Springfield rifle, 10 shots by Creedmoor count, being the best shooting of the day with military rifle.

There was an unusual amount of interest shown in pistol shooting, the targets being in use almost constantly, and a portion of the time men were waiting for a chance to shoot. Mr. Crowningshield's shooting was unusually fine, he firing over 200 shots; his first hundred, in 10-shot scores, being 90, 90, 94, 90, 90, 91, 92, 93, 88, 92, averaging 91 1/10 to the score of ten shots; his second 100 shots were 91, 92, 93, 90, 85, 90, 94, 92, 86, 90, the 200 shots averaging 90 13/20 to a score Walnut Hill April 28, 1892

Mr. Crowningshield's style of shooting has attracted a great deal of attention, and, coupled with his modest demeanor, has made him a welcome visitor at Walnut Hill, in shooting rest and with his right side slightly turned toward the target, the right hand grasping the pistol is held forward, seemingly, as far as possible; the pistol is brought up to a desired point and his head is bent forward slightly, and lowered, so as to bring the right eye down to level of the pistol. The position is somewhat different from the other pistol shooters at this resort. This gentleman seems undisturbed by the constant firing about him, and shoots, as the above figures will show, with great regularity.

The spring meeting of the association, which occurs in June, will, it is said, be likely to bring the pistol experts together, and the struggle for supremacy is expected to be close and exciting.

A race between Harris, Paine, Crowningshield, Patridge, Fellows. Hinman and Russell would be a battle of the giants, and it would be guessing to prophesy who would be top man. Maney would like to see a 100-shot race between these experts.

Mr. Sumner Paine shot in excellent form today, and recorded the highest 10-shot score - a 96- with but three shots out of the ten circle.

The new .45-calibre Government 405 bullet, recently perfected by the U.S. Cartridge Co., was tested by shooting at rest today, at 200 yards, at this range. The bullets were shot from a Winchester repeating rifle, which had a front open and a rear Lyman sight. The ten shots were all well in the bulls-eye, and were as follows

8 12 9 8 8 9 9 8 9 12=92

This was not a selected score after repeated trials, but the first and only score shot. This bullet is slightly larger than some of the other .45 bullets now on the market; It has quite a hollow base, three cannellures, and weighs 405 grains.

The experimentalist were out in force today, and used one of the pistol targets most of the day. Mr. Francis has of late openly declared his choice for a woodchuck gun is a .32/40, and he brought such a rifle to the range today to test and sight. His charge was 5 grains of Schultze powder first, and 40 grains of black powder over that; the bullet was a lubricated one, weighing 165 grains. Excellent results were secured.

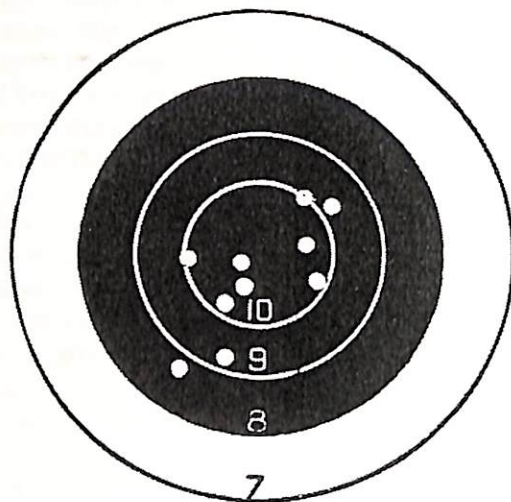
Major Hinman was shooting a 16 1/2-inch Stevens pocket rifle, the barrel of which was turned down to 7/16 of an inch in diameter, All that could be asked for in accuracy was secured, But the Major's friends detect an air of discontent in him, It has been learned that last autumn while he was sojourning in Maine he shot at a great many ducks while paddling on the lakes; he killed a number, but he realized that the trajectory of a .22-calibre bullet fired at a distance of 100 to 150 yards, from a pocket rifle, was such as to make misses frequent. Notwithstanding his great

success in killing grouse with this rifle, the memory of shooting just beyond, or a little short of those ducks is unpleasant, and he avers that nothing but a 4-pound rifle of .25-caliber for the 20-grain cartridge and the 67-grain bullet will meet his ideas of perfection as a rifle for grouse, ducks, and such small game.

It is rumored that the Stevens Company is about to manufacture a rifle of this weight, but for rimfire .22 and .25 cartridges.

There were several members of the Megantic Club on the range, testing and sighting Winchester hunting rifles.

Secretary Harris was absent from the range today, on a visit to Maine.



Ten consecutive shots at 50 yards, by Mr. Sumner Paine, shot at Walnut Hill April 23, 1892 with a Stevens Gould Model pistol, .22 caliber; score 96; target reduced

Mr. E. F. Richardson 1891

May 6, 1891. The month May witnessed some of the finest rifle shooting ever done on American rifle ranges. Mr. E. F. Richardson's run of twenty-seven consecutive bull's-eyes, on a paper target, at the Lawrence Rifle Club's spring meeting, and W. H. Taft's score, at Brattleboro', Vt., of 117 out of 120, on the Massachusetts paper target, are achievements never before accomplished, and are likely to be epochs in the history of American rifle shooting.

A Visit to Walnut Hill

WALNUT HILL, Mass., March 12, 1892.

"Ho! for the stormy cold March days I"

"Oh! there's nothing like them."

"Loud let us shout and sing their praise,"

"March is so cold and free."

March 12, 1892. The above verse hardly voiced the sentiment of the shooters at the Range today, for as we drove up in a barge from a late train, the growling of the riflemen could be distinguished above the rumbling of the wheels before we came to a stop. On entering the house the usual busy scene met the eye. It was evidently a bad day, particularly for the rest shooters, but the veteran Salem Wilder was leading the way and showing the boys where the 12-ring lay, and his score of 109 was a very creditable one under the conditions, and was the top one for the day.

We soon came across Major Hinman proudly contemplating a score of 84, made with his heavy hunting rifle, open sights, with only two shots out of the bull's-eye. After going the rounds of the riflemen we thought we would see what was going on at the pistol range,

where we found two experimenters at work. One was Major Hinman, who had the audacity to shoot a 6-inch Diamond Model at a 50-yard range, while beside him was a small man with an immense Lord Model, .25-calibre. Some one softly remarks, "the sublime and the ridiculous," but Harris at the telescope watching the scores says, "Wait until these scores are completed and see which is the ridiculous." The small man confesses himself a little weighted down with his heavy pistol, but "allows" that he will get there when he has had time to train his arm to shoot it. As we near the end of the scores it is evident that some pretty good shooting is being done, and the man at the glass declines to give further particulars until the scores are completed. The pistols are raised for the final shots, but a scurry of snow and smoke from the rifle targets eddying around the corner obstructs the view, and the pistols are withdrawn for a moment. Now they are ready, and bang! bang! from both shooters, and the sharp order, "Bring down one and two," is given the boy, who starts off in his huge rubber boots across the intervening snow drifts to the target frames. He returns, wildly waving a card in each hand, and upon inspection the .25-calibre pulls out a comfortable 91, and wonder of wonders! the 6-inch Diamond Model shows the remarkable score of 95, with a 7 in it.

The excitement for a few moments throughout the house is intense. The Major blandly walks in with his target centre in hand and is surrounded by a group of admiring shooters, who congratulate him upon his great performance. Even the taciturn L. A. Baker is forced to remark upon this score, and Avay's Green Mountain voice makes the rafters ring, it is safe to say that hardly anyone but the Major would have either dared to make this attempt or would have been likely to succeed as he has done, but he likes to attempt impossibilities, and his constant experiments with all kinds of odd weapons and with various devices for improving the sights, particularly on hunting weapons, are doing much to advance the art of shooting, particularly on utilitarian lines.

The close of the cup matches is near and the positions of the contestants are being rapidly determined. It is evident that some rule must be devised to bar a few sure winners from taking the first prizes continuously, as this is bound to discourage beginners.

One of the members proposes a rule which shall bar the winner of the first prize from competition in the succeeding event, and compel winners of the other prizes to raise their positions in the next competition or allow the cup to go to the next man. This plan would seem to be superior

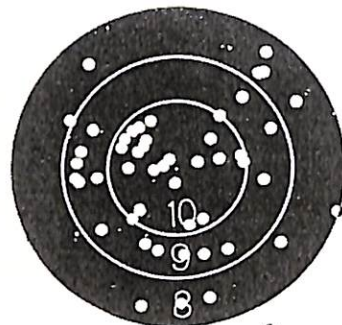
to any handicap plan which can be devised and will improve the shooting as well as giving the lower man a chance.

The prize committee had an impromptu meeting around the stove and inspected a design for the new pistol medals. They will have a meeting Tuesday evening and compare several different designs, and hope to present one which will please all, although it is very difficult to get a distinctive and appropriate design for an Association which already has so many in use.

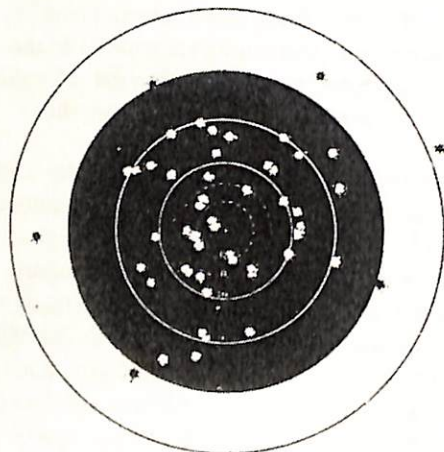
The call, "barge is ready for the last train," sends us after our traps, and we are soon on our homeward way, tired and happy, after a pleasant afternoon's work. "Grouse."



10 shots at 200 yards with a Kirkwood three-barrelled gun. weight of 7 pounds 14ozs.; 12-gauge shot barrels; .38-caliber rifle; no wind gauge. Shot by Mr. E.B. Mansfield at Maplewood range, Feb. 22
Score 108, Standard American Target.



Fifty consecutive shots with a Stevens pistol by Mr. Sumner Paine. Shot at Walnut Hill at 50 yards, Feb. 22, Score 461



Fifty consecutive shots at 50 yards by Mr. H.S. Harris. shot in a match at Walnut Hill, Feb. 20, with a Stevens pistol; score 455, off-hand count from 8-inch bull's-eye.



Fifty consecutive shots at 50 yards, shot in a match at Walnut Hill, Feb. 22, with a Stevens pistol by Mr. E.E. Patridge score of 453

Walnut Hill 1892

"Blow wind and crack your cheeks."

March 19, 1892. And It did blow. It seemed at times as if the wind would blow in the Bide of the new house, strongly as it is built. The red and blue wind flags were held perfectly straight, like bosrds, by the force of the wind, and it was almost impossible to tell by them the great variations which were constantly taking place in its velocity.

The most experienced rest shooters were repeatedly getting very poor shots, and rest scores were proudly preserved, which on an ordinary day would be discarded by a good off-hand shooter, sevens and even sixes being frequent even when the holding was good, and the exclamation, "I got a six on a good hold" was frequently heard on all sides. Many were discouraged and did little shooting, vainly hoping that as the day neared its close the conditions would improve. Only those who fought bravely and constantly, succeeded in making creditable scores, but a few, gallantly fighting under these adverse circumstances, pulled out some remarkable scores, notably that always reliable off-hand shooter, Mr. Sydney, who, with his ears plugged with red cotton wool and a halo emanating from the score of 84 off-hand, relieved the cerulean hue which was prevailing through most of the interior of the shooting house.

Mr. Francis, after long struggling and much tribulation, finally succeeded in making a score of 108 at rest, which was the best for the day and a phenomenal one with the prevailing conditions.

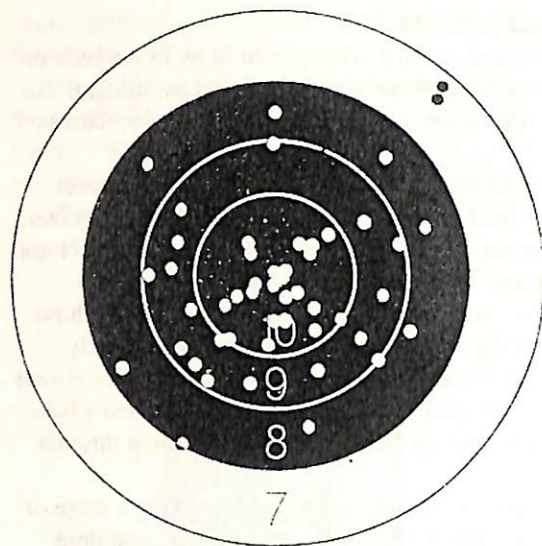
There was considerable activity at the pistol firing points, where the shooters were sheltered from the direct blasts but could not help being affected by the disturbing influence of the wind, as the beech trees on the ridge above the targets were thrashed about in a most discomposing manner, their dry leaves, lashed by the wind, making a loud nerve-thrilling noise. Frequently a severe snow squall occurred, one of them in particular being very heavy, although the sun was shining and the sky between white, fleecy clouds was of a most delicate blue. A sentimental pistol shooter remarked that the sight of this blue through the drifting snow reminded him of the beautiful blue eyes of some blonde beauty seen through a white spotted veil. A cynical bystander observed that if this day reminded him of any woman, she must be "a terror," but he responded that it was an abstract and not a concrete idea, whereupon the words "too thin" appeared about to issue from the critic's mouth, but the Chesterfieldian politeness prevailing at Walnut Hill stopped their utterance, and the remark with the flurry of snow passed on. Thus do poetry and prose, pathos and pistols rub against each other in this kaleidoscopic world of ours.

One shooter, after securing a 92 in the pistol cup match, started in with his pistol gold medal scores, whereupon a friend expressed surprise that he should attempt to make ninety-two's on such a day, and he, although admitting the apparent foolishness of the attempt, persisted and was rewarded with three scores of 92, 93 and 94 before the close of the day, and proudly bore home the target centres as trophies.

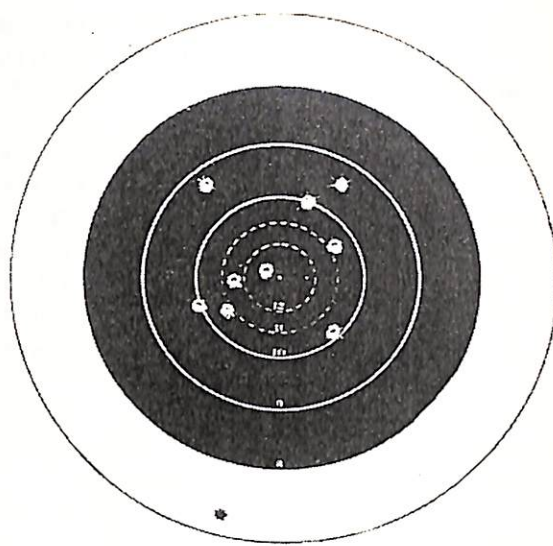
The sleigh ride which Mr. Kendall gave us to and from the station was an unexpected pleasure and peculiar experience for this season of the year, and quite a contrast to the springless uncomf-
ableness of the old barge.

'The scores of the day were on Standard American target

(See page 17).



50 consecutive shots at 50 yards, by
Mr. H.S. Harris, shot in a match at
Walnut Hill, March 16, with a Stevens pistol.
Score 462 Target 8-inch bull's-eye



Ten consecutive shots made by Major C. W. Hinman, with a six-inch
barrel .22-caliber Diamond Model Stevens pistol,
Score 95 off-hand count

Mr. Rabbeth's Telescopes

May 9, 1892. I notice the reply to J. D. K, in *Shooting and Fishing* of the 5th. I do not think you make the action of my telescope mounting quite clear. It does not confine the telescope rigidly, but permits the tube to slide forward in its fittings as the rifle recoils, thus removing the great strain on the fittings due to the inertia of the tube when mounted on a light rifle of heavy recoil. Provision is made for sliding the tube forward about four inches, even with the rear end of barrel, so that it is out of the way in cleaning and loading. When ready to fire, the glass is pulled back into position, spring friction holding it in either position against gravity. Telescopes should be of nearly the same length of rifle barrel for this kind of fitting.

F. J. Rabbeth Roxbury, Mass., May 9, 1892

Pistol Shooting

In looking over the report from the Massachusetts Rifle Association at Walnut Hill, I am pleased to note that many new pistol shooters have recently appeared there and new names are seen in connection with the high scores. There are many reasons why this branch of sport should be popular, and it now seems to be meeting with more recognition than formerly. Many fine shots seem to be developing so that scores of 95 and over are of common occurrence, and excite no particular comment unless they approach close to the possible. The great accuracy of the .22 long-rifle cartridge, combined with its low price, light recoil and report, makes pistol shooting one of the most enjoyable of outdoor as well as indoor sports. The present indications are that it is on the increase, and more pistol shooting will be done the coming season than ever before. M.

Walnut Hill

February 27, 1892. Riflemen about Boston seem to be invincible, for there is no weather bad enough to keep them away from the rifle range. Today was bitter cold; there was a high wind, and the conditions were decidedly unfavorable for rifle shooting, but the boys did turn out nobly. One after another they entered the railway car clad in heavy ulsters, and as they removed their heavy wraps they were heard to remark something about not being the only crank. Riflemen seem but boys of larger growth; they certainly have boyish ways, and among the noticeable characteristics of youth is the burning desire to show some new firearm or improvement which they have originated. On the way from Boston to Walnut Hill today Major Charles, whose countenance is illuminated with smiles at least two-thirds of the time, was observed to look unusually benign, and before the train was fairly started he pulled a 6-inch Diamond model Stevens pistol, .22-caliber, from his pocket, and, with an air of triumph, exclaimed: "Try that pull!" Opening the action, the trigger pull was tested, and the general verdict was: "Very good pull; very little drag." This diminutive arm the Major declared was his "partridge gun." Across the aisle sat Mr. Rabbeth, who was critically examining a nickelled shell; near by was another rifleman, showing a new sight and shell; another showing some new cleaning rods. Many a new device has been shown up for the first and last time in the railway cars between Boston and Walnut Hill; for when put to a test, not a few are relegated to oblivion; while a few are handed down to posterity.

There were enough riflemen to fill the barge on noon train, who, with a goodly number who had gone to the range on the morning trains, made a good attendance. Lockers were opened, and rifles made ready, but the blazing wood fire in the open fireplace in the sitting-room proved attractive for some for awhile. The sitting-room is a good institution; it is a light, cheery room, where one can sit and watch the targets, and the vista from the south windows has a soothing effect on the brain-weary, urban riflemen. Add to this a cheerful blazing fire, reclining chairs, the interesting decorations and gun talk, and you have an attractive retreat. A few words about the decorations: Over the brick fireplace is a large cast of a lion's head; and above this decoration is Mr. Rabbeth's historic crow I say historic, for it is this crow Mr. R, shot with his telescopic-sighted rifle at an estimated distance of 250 yards, and about which there was so much discussion. The crow has been mounted, and now occupies the place indicated. On the north wall is an elegant painting of a trout rising to a fly, painted and presented to the association by Mr. Arthur L. Brackett. Over this painting is a stuffed pelican. There is a fine collection of photographs of the Megantic Fish and Game Preserve, showing hunting and fishing scenes; there are also deer's horns, cutlasses, swords, and other interesting decorations. attached to the walls. Some one remarked recently: "We must not make the sit attractive, or the boys won't shoot." it und, however, that the firing-point is where the majority of riflemen assemble, and the sitting-room is only a pleasant tarrying place for a few moments.

Major Charles had been on the range but a few moments when he was heard exercising his little popgun at the pistol targets. Several riflemen joined him to see him speed his new acquisition. They were amazed to see him aggregate 88 with his first ten shots, and follow it with an 86 and an 85. "How much better can you do with a Gould model, or a .25-caliber, or with any pistol?" chimed in the audience. Then Mr. Francis took the little pistol, and, reversing his eyeglasses, said something about its being blamed nonsense to lug around so much metal as found in a regular pistol when one could shoot so well with the little Diamond model.

Pistol shooting at Walnut Hill is having a boom, and the scores are wonderful. A number of the pistol shots are procuring .25-caliber barrels for their Stevens pistols, these of course being for

the rimfire cartridge. Mr. F. Carter thinks he has a better pistol for target and game than he did when he used a .22-caliber, and his scores emphasize at least apart of his supposition to be correct.

Rest shooting is enjoying a popularity. By the way, many telescopes are now used by the rest shooters, and most of them have an attachment which was worked out by Mr. Rabbeth. The telescope is so arranged that it springs forward when the rifle is fired, thus leaving no chance for it to hit the eye; a very effective arrangement at one side controls the elevation, and those using this device think it is about perfect.

Whenever there is an unusually unpropitious day some one usually makes a phenomenal score; today Mr. H. Cushing was the hero. He came to the range on the two o'clock train, commenced shooting in the off-hand match, and "pulled out," as riflemen say, an 88, or 49 Creedmoor count. He had reached his ninth shot, with no shot out of the bullseye, when the barge boy shouted: "All that want to go on next train ready in five minutes." There were several shooters to fire before Mr. C., so he stepped to the next target, which had the large bull's-eye including the seven circle fired his shot a little hastily, and scored a six; he then got "real mad" and made a tack hole at his next shot.

There were several impromptu matches shot during the day, and at four o'clock the first load of riflemen left the club grounds for home, and the remainder an hour later. On the way back to Boston some riflemen were exuberant; others were glum; others looked rich in wisdom. The first were showing score cards; the second, talking about giving up rifle shooting; the third said they were going to order new rifles.

The Record Brocken 1891

May 6, 1891. The month of May a member was published in the Record of American Rifle-Shooting, the best score of ten shots off-hand, on the Massachusetts target. Mr. E. F. Richardson's score of 115, was the best one reported up to the time of our going to press last month. Shortly after our May issue, our attention was called to a score made by Mr. H. G. Bixby, with a total for the same amount. The scores of these two gentlemen were duly recorded, but, as we close our columns to go to press, there comes a score from the famous Brattleboro' (Vt.) Rifle Club, properly certified to, which surpasses those of the gentlemen named, and breaks the record on this target. The gentleman who performed this brilliant feat is Mr. W. H. Taft, a member of the club. The score would count 49 on the Creedmoor target, while the scores displaced were both clean, or all bull's-eyes, but the score of Mr. Taft excels them by two points. We give the shots as made, which speaks far more eloquently than any words we can pen.

Mr. Richardson's Performanch 1891

The recent performance of Mr. E. F. Richardson in scoring thirty-one consecutive bull's-eyes in a regular competition is a feat we scarcely expected to be called upon so soon to chronicle, although well aware of the superior skill of this phenomenal rifle-shot. The score made is far ahead of any previous record, and, we believe, has no equal at home or abroad. All rules necessary to give it recognition were complied with, and it is a curious fact that not only were the entries in a regular competition, but previous to the shooting a second match was arranged between Mr. Richardson and his old friend and equally famous rifle-shot, Mr. O. M. Jewell; the terms of the match being that the scores should be kept Massachusetts decimal count, and the prize to be a keg of powder.

It will be observed that the shooting was done upon a paper target where a shot is given its full value, and no more. The regular club competition was shot upon the Massachusetts decimal target, but with Creedmoor count, but the duplicate score kept in the Massachusetts decimal count was as follows:

8 8 9 9 7 (10 10 10 8 10=89

9 8 9 8 9 8 10 9 8 9=87

10 10 9 9 10 9 9 8 9 9=92

10 8 10 10) Withdrawn.

The figures enclosed in brackets represent consecutive shots, and is the greatest number of consecutive bull's-eyes ever made in a regular match with a regulation rifle, and within the rules required to give it recognition. E. F. Richardson

Walnut Hill 1892

March 12, 1892. The weather conditions at Walnut Hill today were clear air and plenty of it; wind superabundant; light dull, with occasional glimpses of the sun; frequently a snow squall. The riflemen assembled there in fair numbers, paying at-tention to the special match they were interested in. There was a general laugh when Major Hinman, sometimes known as W. Charles, came down from the dining room with two firearms, one in each hand. What a combination I and I don't wonder the boys laughed, for in one hand was a Lee hunting rifle, .45-caliber, in which the major shoots 2 7/8-shells, holding 110 grains of Hazard's powder and a hollow pointed lubricated bullet, weighing 331 grains. The weapon in the other hand was a Stevens pistol, Diamond model, .22-caliber, with a six-inch barrel, shooting the longrifle cartridge. These arms are Major Hinman's hunting weapons for large and small game. Someone said, "What do you expect to do with those guns today?" and the major replied, "We'll see." "He must have his shooting clothes on," exclaimed one, as the pistol scorer called ten, ten, nine, and when the score was finished and an aggregate of 95 recorded in 10 shots, the pistol shooters with 6-inch barrels and heavy models were willing to admit it was really a chilly day for them.

A new rule was recently made in regard to targets for pistol shooting, which gives great satisfaction. A clean bull's-eye is given each expert shooter at each score, and, as a result, when a fine score is made, the fortunate marksman has his original target to preserve.

When Major Hinman had secured satisfaction at the pistol target he proceeded to the rifle targets to exercise his Lee hunting rifle, and, to the astonishment of all present, he rolled up a total of 84 on Standard target, 200 yards, off-hand, which counted 48 out of 50 by Creedmoor count. "That rifle is homely enough to shoot well," said an envious rifleman; it is far from pretty, being

covered with rust outside and many scratches, but it has killed moose, caribou, deer, and other game, so it holds a place of reverence with the major.

There is a good-natured rivalry between two contestants in the Seal Cup match. Messrs. Eastman and Sydney are both strong off-hand shots with the match rifle, and quite evenly matched. One day Mr. Eastman comes in a point or two ahead, and the next shooting day Mr. Sydney is ahead. No one ventures to say who will be the final winner, or is the better shot, and the result is looked for with interest.

There is considerable interest manifested in the military matches, many of the civilian riflemen occasionally participating and demonstrating their ability to shoot that arm far better than the average soldier.

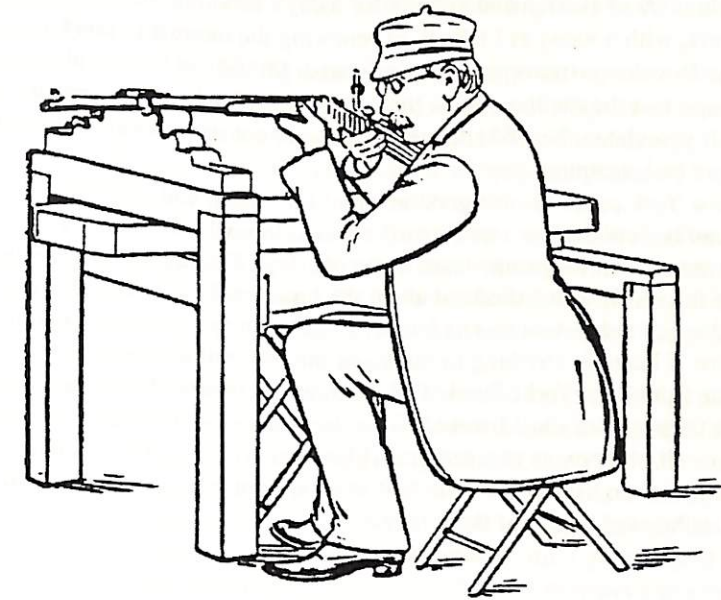
The Rifle 1886

October 17, 1886. In November *Rifle* you publish a score made by J. N. Frye, October 17, 1886 was: ten successive shots, the first four of which are in upper half of a 3 1/4-inch bull's-eye, and can be enclosed by a 1 1/4-inch ring, and the last six in lower half can be enclosed by a 2-inch, ring.

Now as this same party has made three perfect scores in a month, something ought to be learned from his method of loading, etc. Will you please inform me the caliber of his rifle; charge of powder, and whether weighed or measured, and I measured, how measured; weight of bullet, and whether patched or grooved? Was bullet seated in shell or placed in barrel? kind of front-sight, and whether coarse or fine? Was rifle fired with or without cleaning? Did an interval elapse between each shot, so that the barrel of rifle was always at a uniform temperature, or were the shots fired in rapid succession? Was any alteration made in elevation from firing of first shot to completion of score? Was any allowance made for wind, and if so, was this allowance constant, so no further alterations had to be made to windgauge? What kind of rest is used, simply a muzzle rest, which does not support the body in any way, or something which permits the shooter's right arm and side to lean upon some support?

These questions may seem superfluous, but the writer believes much valuable information can only be obtained from rest-shooting, and you will bestow a favor by answering these questions through the columns of your paper.

The scores made by Mr. Frye were shot upon the Massachusetts Decimal Target, with a 38-calibre, No. 6 1/2 Ballard rifle. The barrel is 30 inches in length, the whole rifle weighing 9 3/4 pounds. The shell holds 55 grains of powder, which is measured from a flask, the charge holding that quantity. The bullet used is patched, and weighs 330 grains. It is seated in the barrel with a plug which leaves it 1/4 inch a head of the shell when inserted. The usual rear peepsight is used, and an aperture front-sight of medium size. The rifle was cleaned after each shot. Several riflemen were shooting in the match at the time of Mr. Frye's shooting, using the same rest, each one firing in turn alternately. After making shots 1, 2, 3, and 4 the elevating-sight was lowered slightly; the remaining shots were fired without change. The weather conditions were well nigh perfect during the shooting, and but slight changes were made for wind. accompanying illustration shows Mr. Frye in the position he shoots in the rest-matches, and the kind of rest used.



Position Adopted by J. N. Frye

The East Boston Schuetzen Corps

May 6, 1885. The East Boston Schuetzen Corps held their meeting for the election of officers on May 6, 1885. The officers chosen were as follows: Nelson Woodbury, captain; John Kalbskoff, 1st lieutenant; L. W. Lombard, 2d lieutenant; S. Wolffshon, secretary; Julius Weasel, treasurer.



Winchester Schuetzen Rifle

Long Range Rifle Shooting 1892

In *Shooting and Fishing*, of 6th Inst., I notice that Mr. Gerrish has called a meeting of the old long-range rifle shooters of Boston and vicinity for a day's shooting over the old long ranges of 800, 900 and 1000, yards, with a view, as I take it, of renewing the interest in this fascinating branch of rifle shooting. This is welcome news, and I heartily wish Mr. G. and his friends a good time and good scores, and hope that they will continue the good work weekly on Walnut Hill range, and if they do, it will, no doubt, stimulate other old riflemen to also get out their .45-calibers and try if their eyes and hands have lost their cunning.

I think New York could furnish good material for a club, and, perhaps, in our neighboring city of Washington can be found a few members of the old club, which furnished two or three representatives for an international longrange team in the old days. For my-self, I am anxious for a chance at this branch of the sport, which died out about the time that I commenced my riflshooting career, and if the Massachusetts delegation means business and go in to make a success of it, as they assuredly can do, will see if I can do anything to revive an interest in it in this section.

Let us hear from New York! Surely Col. Bodine and others of long range fame are willing to again face the targets as of old ! I would like to hear an opinion from Messrs. Wilder, Rabbeth or Hinman, any or all of them, as to whether a .40 caliber with, say 16-inch twist, and shooting a 450-grain bullet, will not do as good work at 800 to 1000 yards as a .44 or .45, I think Mr. Wilder has such a rifle; has he ever tried it at these ranges?

S.B. Wetierald Sand'r Spring, Md..

An Opinion of Walnut Hill

June 16, 1892. In behalf of our small delegation from Hoosick Falls, N.Y. to Walnut Hill, Mass., on June 16, 1892 to attend the tournament of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, I wish to thank the gentlemen of the association for the hearty greeting shown us on that occasion; and to all lovers of rifle and target shooting, who have not had the pleasure of a visit to Walnut Hill, I will say, if you ever have the opportunity to do so do not miss it.

My visit there was one to be long remembered. The riflemen there assembled were gentlemen not cranks, in the general acceptance of the word. There is not a government on earth that has not spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in experimenting with the rifle and its ammunition. I do not call these cranky governments.

Judging from the acquaintances I made at Walnut Hill, the gentlemen were enthusiastic and scientific investigators of the art of projecting a leaden missile from 200 to 500 yards and putting the bullets all within a four to eight-inch ring. The range is but a short drive from the railway station, and a beautiful picturesque place at that. When you arrive at that Mecca of all good riflemen, you are happy, unless you are a crabbed old man in his dotage, as there you have every opportunity to shoot to your heart's desire. The inner man is provided for; pure water directly from the bosom of mother earth; a table is always spread, loaded with Boston's noted baked beans direct from the Hub of the universe, as all good Bostonians think. There is also New England pie, doughnuts, plenty of milk, coffee, etc. No whiskey or beer which may account for the phenomenal scores there made.

Many say it is the best range in the United States. There may be seen a variety of rifles, tools and ammunition in general use, and the scores of the riflemen are certainly exceeded by none.

S. A. Skinner M.D., Pres. Hoosick Falls Rifle Club.

Walnut Hill 1892

May 28, 1892. A fair number of rifle and pistol men visited the range today. The conditions were not of the best, as a puffy wind, variable from 8 to 11 o'clock, made high scores difficult and caused no little uneasiness among the rest shooters.

Very few shooting days pass without finding someone at the range with a new rifle or pistol to break in. Mr. Salem Wilder was found busily engaged with a Remington, Winchester, or a Remington action, to which he has just had fitted a heavy Winchester barrel .40-70. The arm weighs 14 pounds and the barrel is octagon, 36 inches in length. The rifle started off well and promises to prove a good one; as Mr. Wilder remarked, "After the right bullet is found."

Several telescope sights were noted, one in particular, which is upon Mr. Francis' woodchuck rifle, was very carefully examined and left a very favorable impression upon the writer. The mountings were of his own make and of excellent design. By the way, the amount of woodchuck talk floating around among the riflemen at this range just now shows that, whether sportsmanlike or not, some of our best ones are greatly interested in woodchuck hunting.

Rifle talk of all kinds filled the loading room. All kinds of arms from the Stevens Sure Shot to the .50-110 express Winchester floated about in a mixture which must make a strange lot of material for dreamland. One of the principle attractions at the range today was Mr. Sumner Paine's new Wurffilein pistol, which is believed to be the first one ever brought here. Mr. Paine made a test of the arm and made two successive scores of 92 and 91, which he pronounced as very satisfactory for the first start. Several others tried the pistol and seemed very favorably impressed with it generally. It has many novel features, Jocks very solid and is very perfect in its work. Several shooters expressed their intention of sending for one.

The sport at the pistol end of the house was made lively by Messrs. Crowningshield and Charles. Messrs. Charles and Eastman made some remarks concerning the wind and changeable light, but each "pulled out" some good scores, off-hand, considering the conditions, while W. P. Thompson, J. Francis and J. French did some good work at rest.

One rifleman who has had a great experience had a new light dawn upon him as regards the use of the Lyman rear sight. He tried it on a hunting rifle at 200 yards for the first time and was delighted.

The new pavilion at the 500 yard firing point was in use and is greatly appreciated. Considerable interest was shown in the various matches.

David Kirkwood 1892

David Kirkwood. The Boston gunmaker, is second to none for ingenuity. He has just finished a very unique taxidermist's or collector's gun. It was made from a long barrelled Remington pistol. The barrel was turned down on the outside, and bored up to .45-caliber inside; the gun in this condition can be used for quite large birds. There is an auxiliary barrel fitted inside of the .45-caliber barrel, which is .22-caliber, and from which a charge of dust shot is fired. This latter is used to kill warblers.

Walnut Hill 1892

May 14, 1892. Riflemen supposed this morning that a favorable day for rifle shooting had come at last, for there was but little wind blowing, but on arriving at the range it was found that the wind had strengthened and was blowing from 5 to 8 o'clock, and of the fishtail order, There was a good attendance, but rest shooters, with a few exceptions, refrained from shooting in the rest matches, and devoted their time to shooting off-hand or to experimenting.

Mr. Sydney distinguished himself in off-hand shooting by scoring 87 and 86, the first score having a wild shot, a 4, which is something unusual for him. This shot was the seventh in his score, and would have demoralized many riflemen, but Mr. Sydney pulled himself together, as riflemen say, making two 10's and an 8 in his last three shots.

Mr. Eastman was at the range for about an hour, during which time he recorded a score of 85. The wind was so fickle as to cause this gentleman to return to Boston on an early train.

The pistol targets are generally well patronized, but when a troublesome wind prevails there is an unusual number of shooters there, Many riflemen shoot both rifle and pistol, and when the prospects for making good scores with the rifle are poor, they devote their attention to pistol shooting, and although there are seven pistol targets there are not enough to accommodate all of those desiring to shoot. Such was the case today, and it seems apparent that some new arrangement must be adopted to provide for the increasing number of pistol shooters.

It has been suggested that a pit be dug and the plan followed in rifle firing be adopted. This does not meet the approval of all interested, as they like the present arrangement of a new target for each score, and the privilege of having their targets brought to them for inspection or preservation. Another plan suggested is to have a pit, and a marker stationed therein; as each marksman finishes his score, the target to be sent over a wire by a carrier, to the firing point, It is believed that one man in the pit can tend the seven targets. The shooting was incessant at the pistol targets and some excellent scores were made.

Mr. Sumner Paine made a number of high scores, and left the range with a 92 to his credit,

Mr. E. E. Patridge, who has been doing less pistol shooting than usual, lately, thought he would try a few scores, and retired with 90, 91 and 92. There was, however, a dark horse in the assembly in the person of **Mr. L. R. Avay**. This gentleman is comparatively a new pistol shot and was pleased early in the afternoon by scoring an 86, the highest aggregate he had ever made; this encouraged him to try another score, and some consternation was shown among the giants when the attendant brought Mr. Avay's target to the firing point. It aggregated 93 points, the highest score of the day.

The new shooting pavilion in process of erection at the 500-yard firing point is fast reaching completion. It is to be a substantial and ornamental structure, and the volunteer can shoot there in future with much comfort. When finished, shooting can be done in rainy or wet weather. The pavilion extends over the firing point sufficiently to keep the ground in good condition. The targets being of paper, there is no running of paint and distortion of the bull's-eye by the rain or by an unusual amount of firing, and it is believed that no range in America offers so many comforts and conveniences for short and midrange shooting as Walnut Hill.

There was considerable military shooting done today, chiefly by members of the Naval Battalion. **Private C. F. G. Armstrong** was high man at 200 yards with a score of 45 in ten shots, Creedmoor count.

C. W. Hinman Hunting in Maine 1892

A year ago, Major Hinman visited the same section, and at a certain place he sighted a deer. He approached within shooting distance and fired at the animal which fell, but, as the party approached, the deer scrambled to its feet, and the sportsman brought a fresh cartridge from the magazine to the chamber and was about to fire a second shot when the guide told him not to shoot as the deer was about dead. The sportsman and guide approached still nearer when the deer again sprang to his feet, and again the sportsman was enjoined not to fire. A moment later the deer for the third time regained his feet and this time made off and was lost. This year a deer was shot within 200 yards of that spot, and a wound found upon it nicely healed, and in the same place Major Hinman believes he hit the deer last year, which makes the Major think he shot the same deer twice.

Major Hinman felt that his last opportunity to kill a moose this season was gone. The guide paddled noiselessly into deeper water, and as the canoe rounded a bend in the river the big bull was seen standing about 50 yards away. Major Hinman saw the bull about to jump as he placed the butt of the rifle to his shoulder; he took a quick sight but was perfectly cool, and fired. The moose cringed and fell, but was up in an instant and made off through the bushes; a second shot was fired but did not hit the animal. Soon all was quiet, and the sportsman and guide disembarked, and within a hundred yards of the shore found the moose still alive but unable to rise. Another shot finished it. The spread of the antlers of this moose is four feet one inch, and it girded back of the shoulders 84 inches. The first shot struck the animal four inches back of the fore shoulder, the bullet ranging back toward the middle of the body and was flattened to $\frac{3}{100}$ of an inch in thickness. Ralph Greenwood

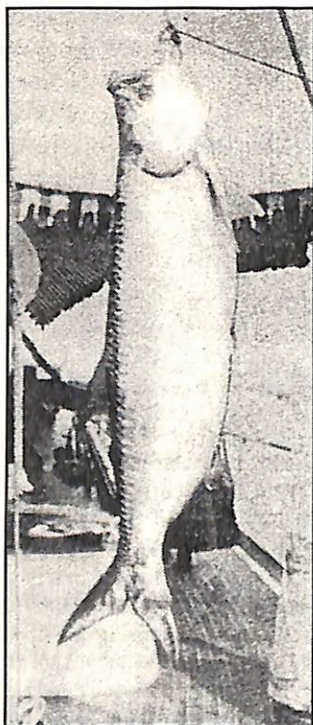
Mr. J. N. Frye Hunting in Maine 1892

I have often noted, from the recitals of my hunting friends, the near approach a moose will sometimes permit. Many years ago Mr. J. N. Frye, who is, perhaps, as well known as any sportsman in New England, was hunting in the vicinity of Moosehead Lake, Maine. He and his guide went from Moosehead to Spencer Pond, and as they entered the pond, they perceived a moose standing in the water at the head to Spencer. Mr. Frye was armed with a doublebarreled shotgun charged with buckshot and, never having killed a moose, was anxious to get a shot at this one. His guide informed him if he kept perfectly still and the moose did not wind them, he believed he might paddle the canoe within shooting distance, 'But he sure,' said the guide, 'not to make a movement until I have paddled you near enough to shoot; then don't speak, but raise your hand a little, when I will stop paddling, and you will then shoot.' The canoe was headed toward the moose they were within a hundred yards within fifty within twenty five, and still no movement of the hand to signal near enough. The moose stood motionless; the guide dipped his paddle slowly and gently pushed the canoe still nearer; they were within sixty feet fifty feet. Another slight motion with the paddle and the sportsman made the motion, and following it instantly by bringing his heavy 10-bore to his shoulder, fired both barrels as quickly as possible. The large beast stumbled, rushed several yards toward the shore, and, fell dead on the bank. That guide has never lost an opportunity to tell the incidents of that hunt, and declared that never before nor since has he seen a person hold his fire so coolly as did Mr. Frye, and he would conclude his story with the remark: "I don't think Mr. Frye would have been so cool had he known the nature of the beast as well as I did."

Lead Bullets from the backstop at Walnut Hill

Walnut Hill 1892 For an investigating rifleman there is no more interesting study than an inspection of the bullets dug from the bank back of the paper targets at any large rifle range. At Walnut Hill there is such a great variety of rifles shot that there is a miscellaneous lot of bullets to inspect. Two singular facts have been noted recently by me. First, was quite a number of bullets which have become so oxidized on the surface that, when thrown into the melting kettle, the inside of the bullet melts, while the surface of the bullet, which is like the metal jacket of a modern smallbore military bullet, is, apparently, not affected by the heat. In another case there were quite a number of 45-caliber factory bullets, which were thrown into a melting kettle, and before heat enough was supplied to melt the lead, a blow with a billet of wood would cause them to break and fly apart. The whole bullet appeared to be crystalized. The theory entertained by several in regard to the first bullets, is that swadging causes an oxidization of the surface. With the second lot, it is believed that the hardening matter now employed by some factories causes a crystalization of the bullets under certain applications of heat. It is evident that accuracy in such bullets is lost, and it would be well, if possible, to discover the cause of such actions. Perhaps some of the riflemen who are chemists, or have scientific knowledge, may enlighten the rifle-shooting fraternity on this matter.

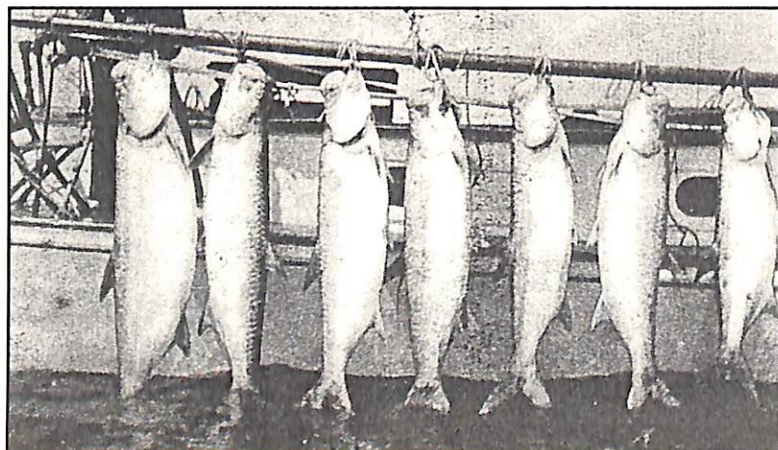
Mr. Charles A. Dean Tarpon fishing



The 140 pound
Tarpon

Mr. Charles A. Dean of Boston, a member of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, has presented to that organization a finely-mounted tarpon, which was caught by him at Punta Gorda, Florida, in March of the present year. The fish weighed, when caught, 140 pounds, and was 6 feet 8 inches in length. It was caught with a 24-Ounce rod, a Silver King reel and No. 18 line. This trophy now adorns the diningroom of this famous club.

Mr. Dean has written and published a little souvenir book, for private circulation, entitled "The Tarpon," in which he tells his experience in such an unconventional way that it is extremely interesting to those who have had no experience with the monster herring.



Two New Matches at Walnut Hill 1892

Some months ago there were two matches inaugurated by the Massachusetts Rifle Association one to represent the off-hand rifle championship of Massachusetts; the other the pistol championship for the same State. The conditions of the rifle match are as follows: Open to all persons residing in the State, All matches to be shot on the range of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, distance 200 yards. Position, off-hand. Rounds, 20. Target, Standard American. Entry fee, 50 cents. Any number of competitors can enter each match, by entering before the match begins. The holder of the medal must defend the championship title against all-comers within one month after being challenged or forfeit the medal, and must give the Association at least ten days' notice of the date on which he will shoot the match; and must deliver the medal to the Association two days before the match; and he shall leave a deposit with the Association while the medal is in his possession. Any competitor winning the medal ten times, or five consecutive times, or holding it continuously for one year, shall become self owner of the medal. A bronze medal will be presented to the winner of this medal for his first victory, and a bronze bar for each victory thereafter. All matches will be shot under the direction of the Executive Committee or some person appointed by them, and will be shot on regular rifle-shooting days, unless otherwise permitted by the Committee, and all unsettled questions and conditions shall be referred to this Committee for settlement.

Greenwood's Gleanings 1892

Last week there was some rifle shooting done at Walnut Hill which deserves more than a passing notice. Mr. J. French fired two scores in the 200 yards rest match, on the Standard American rest target, which were as follows

12 10 12 12 12 11 12 12 11 12=116
10 12 11 12 12 12 12 11 11 11=114

Any one familiar with rifle shooting and the target shot on, will at once recognize the superfine work done by Mr. French, But the shooting was particularly interesting to me because the marksman was 67 years of age, and he had done little or no rifle shooting until within about two years. It was but a short time ago that this gentleman found it difficult to keep his shots in the eight-inch bullseye, and now he keeps pace with the best rest shots at Walnut Hill, For the benefit of those unfamiliar with the measurement of the circles on the Standard American rest target, I would state that the twelve circle is 1 -41/100 inches in diameter, and on and in this circle Mr. French placed 12 out of the 20 shots. The eleven circle is inches in diameter, and 18 of the 20 shots were on or within that circle, which included the shots counting 12.

There, is not a more enthusiastic rifleman participating at Walnut Hill than Mr. French, and his work beautifully illustrates the degree of excellence which one of his years can acquire. It also shows what a noble sport is found in rifle shooting for men of mature years, at a time of life when some believe they are debarred from indulging in outdoor sports.

Long Range Shooting 1880

September 15, 1880. Long range shooting with a smallbore match rifle was supposed until very recently to be dead, and with no prospect of resurrection, There are some indications of a revival of this sport, and Mr. Win. Gerrish is the prime mover in it. Mr. Gerrish has extended an invitation to all of those he knows about Boston who were formerly intrested in this branch of shooting, to meet at Walnut Hill for a day's practice. There has been paper drafted and signed by several longrange shooters, agreeing to participate in the shoot, and perhaps one of the lost arts in shooting may be revived. Mr. Gerrish was a member of one of the teams of smallbore riflemen that visited England and contested in international matches. He has an enviable record; among his many fine scores was one, however, that gave him a worldwide reputation. It was 224 out of a possible 225, or bull's-eyes and one centre, on Creedmoor targets, 10 shots each at 800, 900 and 1000 yards This score was shot in a regular match at Walnut Hill Sept. 15, 1880, It was a wonderful performance and had never been equalled at that time, and never yet surpassed.

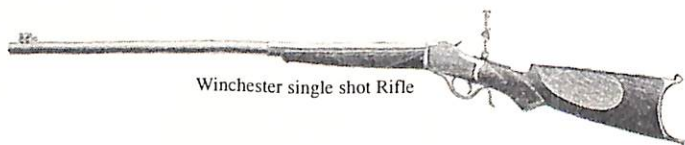
When long range shooting was at the zenith of its popularity it was customary to go to Walnut Hill on 10:15 train in the morning, which enabled the riflemen to commence the match at 11 o'clock. The 800 yards range was shot over before luncheon, and the 900 and 1000 yards range afterwards, generally finishing about 2 o'clock, I well remember the day Mr. Gerrish made his banner score; commencing at 11 o'clock in the morning he made bull's-eyes until a few minutes before 3 o'clock in the afternoon; on his 44th shot he made a centre.

After such a performance there came such a deluge of questions from riflemen as to the rifle and ammunition used that Mr. Gerrish was obliged to publish the particulars in full. His information served to puzzle rather than enlighten riflemen, for Mr. Gerrish admitted that his old reliable Sharps rifle was badly rusted inside the barrel, and his shells had been loaded a long time and had been transported to England and back.

A very singular thing about that rifle was the fact that after the brilliant spurt mentioned it would not shoot at all satisfactorily, and Mr. Gerrish had to lay it aside, which caused the boys to remark that Billy Gerrish strained his rifle when he made his score of 224.

Walnut Hill 1892

May 25, 1892. The midweek shoot of the Massachusetts Rifle Association was held at its range to-day. the number of shooters present was not large, and the shooting conditions were very poor. The scores made under such conditions were first class, especially those of Messrs. Merrill, Francis and Sydney. H. S. Harris won the gold pistol medal.



Winchester single shot Rifle

Walnut Hill 1892

May 30, 1892. An allday shoot was held here today with a good attendance of members and a large delegation of militiamen. The weather conditions were not favorable for high scores, on account of a troublesome wind blowing from 5 to 8 o'clock.

Mr. Sumner Paine, who led the off-hand shooters in the seal medal match, said he was comparatively a new hand at this style of shooting.

Mr. W. Charles received an invitation to try a score with Mr. Paine's new Wurfflein pistol: he did so, and scored 94, with all the shots upon the 9 ring. The score led those of the day.

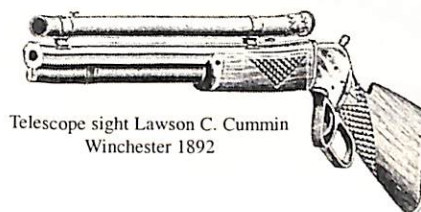
A noticeable feature was the number of bicycles seen at the range. Several of the off-hand shooters came on them from their homes at Lynn, Cambridge, and other places. It was stated by them that riding a bicycle and off-hand shooting should be indulged in on different days, unless the shooting was done first. The riding is said to break a man all up for fine holding.

An incident at the pistol targets shows how men may be shot on a rifle range. During the firing something was noticed moving in the bushes behind the targets, which proved to be a man, a visitor on the range; the wellknown Green Mountain voice of one of the pistol shooters gave him a piece of advice in a manner which almost any one should understand, but the man in the bushes, to get out of the way, deliberately ran by the whole line of targets. Remarks were useless, and the shooter before mentioned said he was all broken up for that score.

Maj. Charles W. Hinman

Several weeks ago Maj. Charles W. Hinman left Boston for his annual hunt in Northern Maine and New Brunswick, It is his custom to leave Boston prior to the closing of the fishing season, to secure a little of the late fishing, and to be on the grounds at the opening of the legal season for hunting, I know of but few who go as far away from the beaten paths for hunting as Major Hinman. He penetrates some very inaccessible places, and generally obtains fine sport. During his trip he camped in 10, different places, made 7 carries, and canoed on 14. different lakes and ponds. His sole companion was a New Brunswick Indian guide. He was equipped with a Lee rifle, .45-calibre, which I have several times described in these columns, and a .25-calibre Stevens Hunters' Pet rifle, the latter being bored and chambered for the .25-20, and the shell loaded with the 77-grain bullet. The guide had no firearms.

During the trip Major Hinman killed an unusually large bull moose, with a superb head and perfect horns; he also killed three deer, and small game, the latter consisting of grouse and ducks. No caribou, were seen during the trip, but deer were very abundant, so much so that on some days several were seen during the day. Grouse were very scarce, and Major Hinman told me that he could have killed more deer than grouse during his hunt.



Telescope sight Lawson C. Cummin
Winchester 1892

Copper Plated Bullets

I have fired about one hundred copperplated bullets from my .25-calibre rifle, using 21 1/2 grains of black powder, and bullets weighing from 100 to 106 grains each, both grooved and smooth. Some of these were lubricated with tallow and wax; others were used dry; and a few were patched with paper. These bullets were *Electro-plated*; some being left in the bath ten minutes others twenty, and still others twenty-five minutes. The plate in the latter case was about the thickness of the heaviest grade of patch paper in ordinary use. The electric current was obtained from two cells of Calland battery, and only one bullet was suspended in the bath at a time.

I think it highly improbable that such a thin plate of copper, backed by soft lead, should be able to cut a rifle barrel to any great extent, and I have not been able to discover any loss of accuracy in my rifle. I hold about the same opinion, as does Mr. Blain in regard to this matter, but will not guarantee anybody's rifle against injury if he uses copper-coated bullets without any lubricating material.

To those who have the time and means to experiment with plated bullets I would suggest a trial of silver instead of copper. The poisonous character of copper has been cited by one of your Boston correspondents, and I should prefer my deer to be killed with a silver bullet rather than a copper one.

"Ignorance" has given us an interesting description of the action of a cold saw made of copper. I have seen a larger cold saw than he describes (a bout 24 inches in diameter) in action, and this saw would cut through heavy billets of cold steel about eight inches in thick-ness. It was made by the Disstons, of Philadelphia, and was said to be steel, although I suppose it contained an alloy. It had no teeth, and was used exclusively for cutting cold iron; while other saws, with teeth, were used in the same mill to cut hot iron. The cold saw will throw a thick shower of red-hot sparks, showing that it depends for its effectiveness in abra-sive qualities on its ability to develop a high temperature in the metal to be cut; while it maintains a comparatively low temperature. It is quite evident that a smooth saw will not cut a metal of the same composition as that of the saw itself, and, in comparing the principle of its action with that of a bullet in a rifle barrel, the question naturally arises as to the ability of the thin copperplate on the bullet to develop sufficient heat, not in itself, but in the steel of the barrel, to soften it to such an extent as to allow its being cut by a metal as soft as copper.

I think that the action of the cold saw is electrical rather than mechanical, and that, to produce sufficient electrical heat in a rifle barrel to soften the steel, it would be necessary to use solid bullets of copper, or other similar metal, and then fire very rapidly for a considerable length of time.

If solid copper bullets were fired from a machine gun at the rate of five hundred shots per minute, I think the problem of melting the barrel would soon be solved. E. A. Leopold.



Colt Lightning Rifle

Aluminium Bullet's 1892

May 4, 1892. At a meeting of the Royal Society of Science, held at Burlington House, London, England, on May 4, all the latest scientific novelties were shown. The London Daily Telegraph says: "Photographs of flying bullets, exhibited by Professor C. V. Boys, P.R. S., attracted great attention, the air waves being most remarkable. Messrs. Mack and Saicher obtained the negatives in the most clever fashion, proving the speed of a pistol bullet (presumably the English army .45-caliber, 225 grain bullet, 13 grains of powder), to be 750 feet per second, of a Martini-Henry rifle bullet 1750 feet; of a magazine rifle bullet (the Lee .303-calibre), with smoke. less powder, 2000 feet, and of an aluminium bullet under similar conditions of 3000 feet." This shows that in the new English magazine rifle an aluminium bullet improves the speed 50 percent.

Would that not mean much flatter trajectory for long range shooting, and diminished recoil? I know nothing about long range shooting, but at moving objects this increased speed would be a great gain.

At the Bisley Running Deer (110 yards distant, moving about a six-minute gait), the fastest I can get a .40-caliber leaden bullet to travel makes one have to aim in front of the deer's chest to get into the bullseye.

Of course, having to aim in the air so far in front prevents accurate elevation being got, as the deer runs in a curve, and a shot during the first half of the deer's run, has to be aimed for where the deer will be at a lower level of its course, by the time the bullet reaches it; and the reverse at the end of the run where the deer is climbing. Now with an aluminium bullet, the speed of the bullet ought to be fast enough for the aim to be taken on the point of the deer's shoulder, leading to much more accurate elevation.

I suppose that the cost of material for such bullets will be rather heavy, and aluminium may be difficult for amateurs to cast in ordinary molds; but the aluminium, in shooting at a stationary target as a test of accuracy, can easily be saved for recasting, by shooting with an earth bank behind a cardboard target.

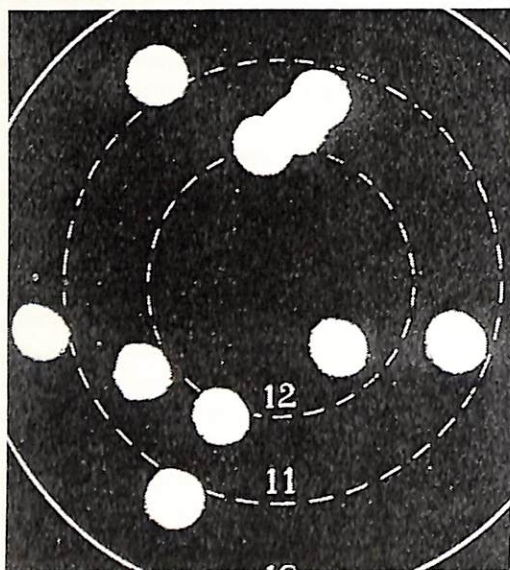
I am writing this, as some of your readers may like to try experiments in aluminium bullets, and it would be very interesting to know how they answer for accuracy. It may be that, although they have higher initial velocity, they may soon lose speed after a few dozen yards, and begin to stagger, just as an egg-shell can-not be thrown as far as a stone.

For my purpose I do not need my bullets to be accurate beyond 110 yards; at that distance I want the utmost speed of flight attainable with grains of black powder in a .40 or .36-caliber. The accuracy need not exceed a four-inch ring at that distance. I should think a very short, hollow-pointed, patched bullet would be best. I hope to be able to make some experiments and report results. w. w.

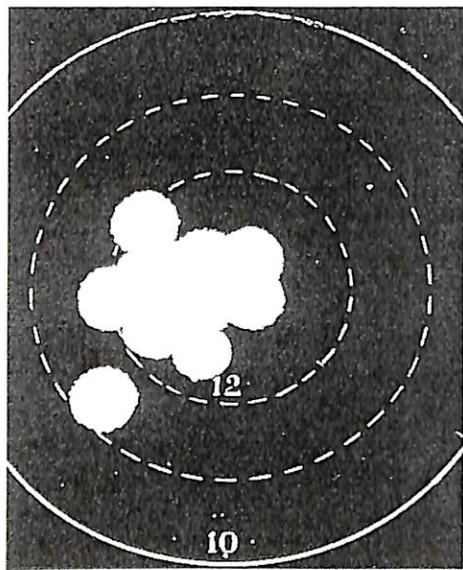


Winchester Schuetzen Rifle

Mrs. Sallie E. Briggs 1898



Score of 115 out of a possible 120. Shot by Mrs. S. E. Briggs, at 200 yards, rest, at Walnut Hill, Mass., Nov. 5, 1898.



Mrs. Briggs' Second Score, counting 119. December 17, 1898.

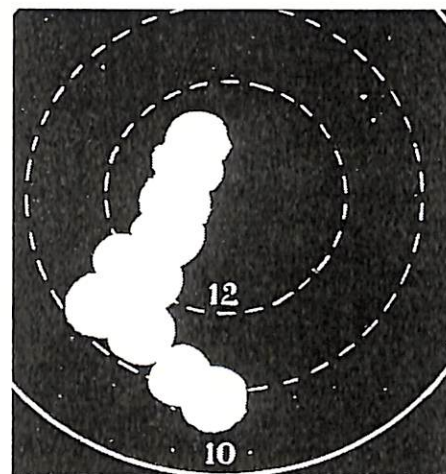
Dec. 17-The regular weekly shoot was held at the range today and was attended by a large number of members, who came early and shot as long as the light would allow. The weather conditions were about perfect and numerous fine scores were made in the various matches. The highest score of the day on the rest target was made by Mrs. S. E. Briggs, who enjoys the distinction of being the only woman member. The score aggregates 119 out of a possible 120, but one shooter ever having made a perfect score. Mr. Daniels made a marvelous run of six-teen consecutive 12's on the Standard American target, the 12 ring being but 1.41 inches in diameter, but was unfortunate in getting them on two tickets, as he otherwise would have made the possible. Fine scores were also made by Messrs.

Kelley, Coombs, and Harris, the shooting of the former showing wonderful steadiness.

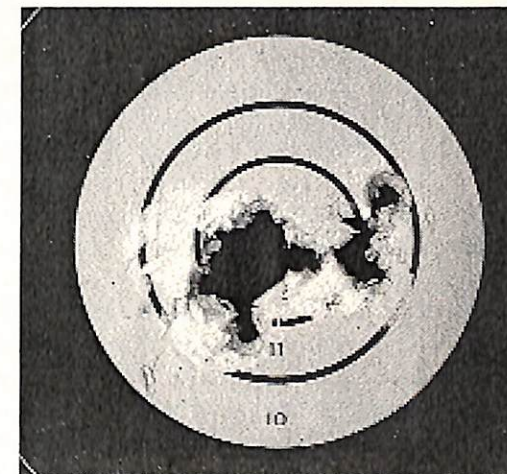
The range will be open for an allday shoot on Christmas day, special prizes being given for the best scores in the various matches, which will duplicats those of Thanksgiving day.

Members who have not completed their scores in the medal matches will be permitted to do so during the next year, instead of losing them as has formerly been the custom.

Mrs. Briggs' 119 and 116 are reproduced full size herewith. She fired four scores, without sighting shots, on the standard rest target from a bench rest, holding the butt of the rifle to her shoulder. She used a Ballard rifle which is fitted with a .38-55 Winchester barrel and Willard telescope. Her bullets were Chase patched. We are informed Mrs. Briggs was neither coached, advised, nor assisted in any way, but loaded, cleaned, and handled her rifle alone.



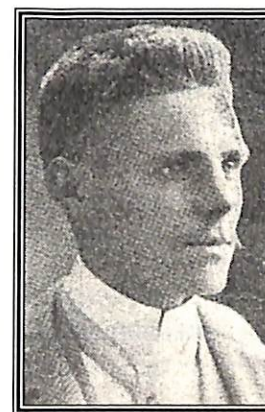
Mrs. Briggs' Third Score, counting 116.



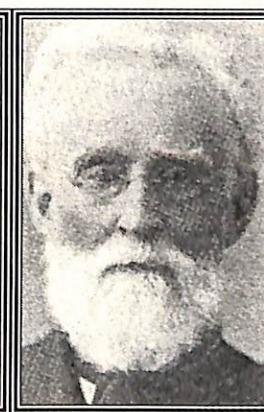
Mrs. Sallie E. Briggs October 21, 1899 Score of 119. at Walnut Hill



G. H. Wentworth



A. H. Pape



Salem Wilder



H. M. Pope

A Lady and Her Rifle 1892

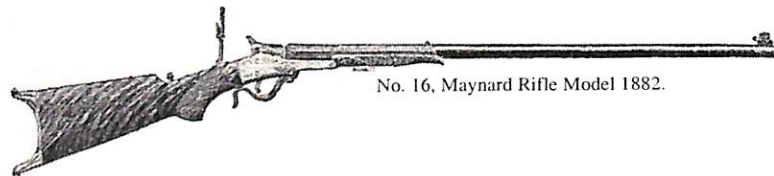
November 5, 1892. The sport of rifle shooting has many times been referred to as one of the cleanest recreations. When a sport is clean, exciting, and requires great skill, it is bound to live and flourish, and we suppose it is the natural sequence to have women become interested in it.

During the many years we have been interested in rifle shooting, we have met many ladies who were excellent rifle shots. If the natural timidity of ladies is sufficiently overcome to tempt them to fire a few shots from a lightly charged rifle, they often perceive the fascination of the sport and become enthusiastic over it. It has frequently occurred to us that if rifle shooting were followed as much by women as by men, there are a great many of the so-called sterner sex who would have to admit they could not shoot so well as some women do. It is quite generally known that good habits are conducive to good marksmanship; it is admitted, too, that keen perception and delicate manipulation have much to do with superfine rifle shooting, and these qualifications are to be found in most women, though generally latent as applied to the manipulation of a rifle.

For many years women have owned and shot rifles at the target and on game, but they have done so quietly, avoiding publicity. But of late years there has been a marked tendency for wives, sisters, and lady friends to share sports with gentlemen. This, when done properly, brings increased pleasure to the gentlemen, and healthful and entertaining pleasure for the ladies. We live in a period when clean sports belong exclusively to no one sex, and each year sees ladies at the local rifle ranges and other similar resorts.

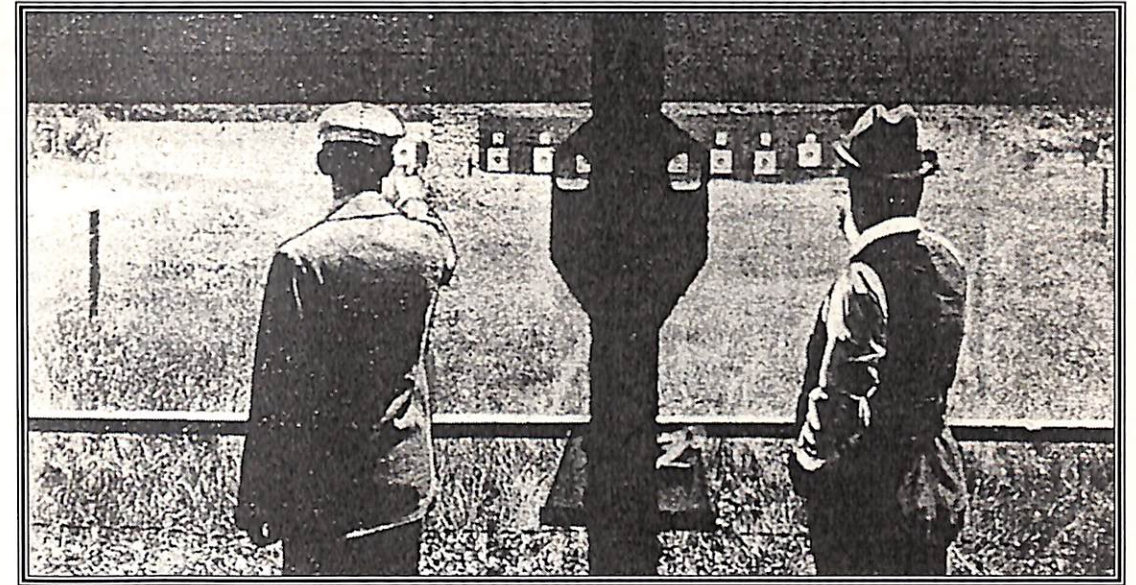
Many of our readers have noticed the name of Mrs. S. E. Briggs among the participants in the matches of the Massachusetts Rifle Association at Walnut Hill. Mrs. Briggs some time ago became deeply interested in rifle shooting. She aspired to shoot a rifle similar to those shot by the experts at Walnut Hill. She secured a rifle, joined the association, and commenced to practice. The department of rest shooting interested her, and she began to travel the thorny path of the rest shooter whose ambition is to reach the goal of perfection a perfect score of 120. How well Mrs. Briggs has succeeded, those who closely scan our rifle columns each week well know. Already she has attained a degree of skill that comparatively few men can boast, with strong indications that she will climb much higher, perhaps to perfection or make the possible.

On Saturday, Nov. 5, Mrs. Briggs visited Walnut Hill. She fired her rifle eleven times; her first shot, a sighter, was a 10, she then began her score, her shots being all 11's or better, the ten shots aggregating 115. Mrs. Briggs has a score of 116 to her credit, having made it at Walnut Hill a few weeks ago. Her score of 115 was shot without coaching, and the lady cleaned, her own rifle and loaded her own shells. We are permitted to publish a copy of Mrs. Briggs' target as well as her portrait. This we are glad to do, for we feel that every reader of this journal will have respect and admiration for such work by a lady and her rifle.



No. 16, Maynard Rifle Model 1882.

A Model Pistol Range



The pistol and revolver range of the Massachusetts Rifle Association at Walnut Hill is probably the best equipped outdoor range of its kind in America, if not in the world. A recent visit to that range showed many improvements there. It is situated at the east end of the clubhouse. Experienced riflemen visiting this range will quickly notice the safeguards about the pistol range. The butts are built so as to stop any bullet. The entire range is fenced off, so no absentminded person or any stranger can wander across the firing line. At the end of the shooting pavilion are large windows, so arranged that an unobstructed view of the range and shooters can be secured by spectators, no person excepting shooters and scorers being allowed at the firing points. These firing points are very convenient. The ground there is asphalted, so the shooters have no mud to stand in during rainy or snowy weather; each firing point is a compartment in itself, the one where the heavy military revolvers are shot being at the end and more open, so the report does not disturb other shooters. There is an overhead guard near the firing point which will stop wild bullets that would not hit the bulkhead; there is also a guard which runs across each firing point, with wire fencing underneath to check any impetuous shooter who might thoughtlessly step under the guard out in front of the firing point and expose himself to the fire of a person shooting from another stand. This pistol and revolver range is worthy of study and of imitation elsewhere, and we are glad to present an illustration of it as we saw it recently.

At the left of the bulkhead and targets will be noted a single target. This is known as the cranks' target. The firing point connected with this target is in a separate compartment, which although adjoining the pistol stands it must be entered from another door, and is distinct and separate in itself. This is irreverently designated the cranks' corner. It is the place where riflemen, experimentally inclined, demonstrate their theories, it is needless to say it has been the scene of crushed hopes and signal triumphs.

Thomas Anderton Expert Pistol Shot



On this page will be found the portrait of Thomas Anderton, the expert pistol shot, who scored the possible of 100 out of 100 points in ten shots at 50 yards on the Standard American target, at the range of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, Walnut Hill, Mass., on May 13. This score equals the best known tenshot record and breaks the club record. On the same day Mr. Anderton broke the thirty-shot record for the United States, scoring 283 on the Standard American target.

Mr. Anderton is thirty-six years of age; is in perfect physical condition. He was born in England and served in the British army, and at one time was instructor of rifle practice. He served as a United States volunteer during the recent war with Spain.

The Pistol Record 1899

May 13, 1899. Fourteen years ago the Standard American target was adopted by the principal American rifle clubs, and from that time until the present it has been largely used in rifle and pistol shooting. The 200-yard rifle target of this pattern has been almost universally adopted for pistol and revolver shooting at 50 yards. With the latter arm a perfect score of 100 out of a possible 100 was made by the late Sergt. W. C. Johnston, Jr., On July 7, 1888, and on Nov. 8, 1898 C. H. Taylor, at Philadelphia, made a perfect score of 100 points in ten shots with a pistol; but not withstanding the pistol is regarded as a more accurate arm than the revolver, a second perfect score was not made with the pistol until Saturday last, May 13. when Thomas Anderton succeeded in performing that feat at the range of the Massachusetts Rifle Association, at Walnut Hill. Mass. Mr. Anderton has long been regarded as one of the strongest pistol shots in the country, consequently his performance will not astonish those knowing his skill; the standing of the Massachusetts Rifle Association gives the new record authenticity.

We have received the original target, from which we reproduce the accompanying illustration. With the target came a very interesting communication from Eugene E. Patridge, giving a sketch of Mr. Anderton's shooting career and incidents of his life, from which we make some extracts. We do this mainly because Mr. Patridge is, perhaps, Mr. Anderton's strongest rival. He has endeavored in every sportsmanlike way to win that record before Mr. Anderton did, but now his rival has reached the goal of perfection he pays in generous words just tribute to his rival's skill and manhood. That's what we call true sportsmanship. and we like it. Mr. Patridge says:

"At last the possible with pistol has been made at Walnut Hill, and I take pleasure in sending you the original target. You see by this that there are no close shots, all being well inside the 10 line and scoring by rest count four 12's, four 11's, and only two 10's, both well in. "Some time ago Tom Anderton declared his intention to smash some of the pistol records, and his performance of Saturday not only gives the first clean pistol score in our association, but also raises the 30-shot pistol record.

"Mr. Anderton is a fine specimen of manhood. He is young, athletic, and well set up. He has served in the English regular army in India and elsewhere, being in the wars of 1878 and 1888, and was an American volunteer during the recent war with Spain. While in the English army he was a noted first prize winner in many of the competitions held between the regiments, being particularly skillful in sabre and lance duels on horseback. His father and brother, also in the English service, were many times winners in these coutests, so that it comes naturally to Tom to excel in competition. Mr. Anderton does not use tobacco or spirituous liquors, and seems to be always in training. His brawny arms are hard as nails, and his blue eyes bright and dancing. He is constantly in good spirits and is jolly good company always.

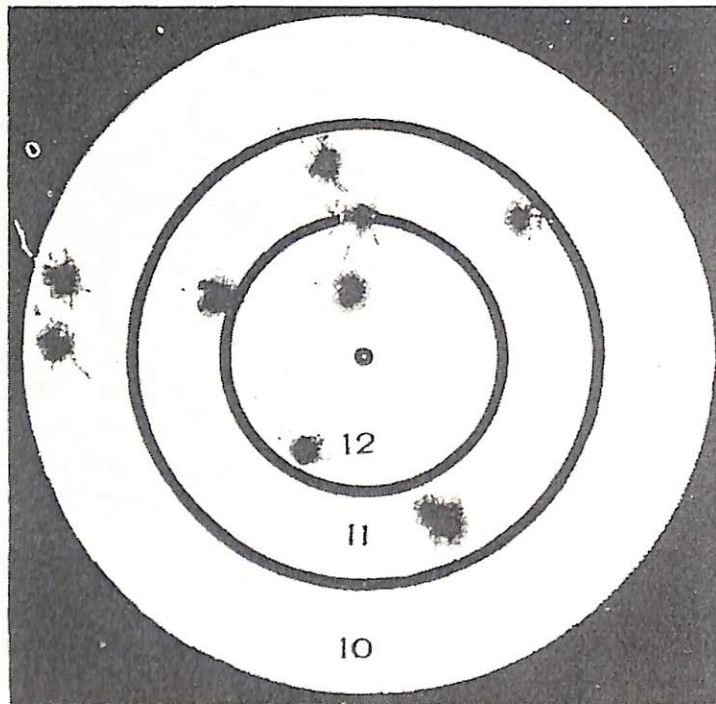
"Pistol shooting is not his only strong point, as he is probably the best all-round shot with all weapons our association possesses, being particularly fine in military rifle shooting. As a revolver shot, when in good form he has few equals, and should he devote himself to this branch for a while I know of no one in this country likely to bother him except our good friend Axtell.

"Mr. Anderton has often said he could make a clean score of 10's with pistol any time he made up his mind to do so, but it is evidently a strain, even on his iron nerves, to keep up that pace, for he declared after completing this perfect run that he could not be induced to make the effort again., With this frank avowal on his part it is no wonder that the ordinary pistol shot with no pretentious to being an athlete and coming to the range from his business

worries, and frequently with his nerves In a jangle, should go to pieces when the opportunity arrives to break a record by completing some well begun score.

"Mr. Anderton's success is the well deserved result of careful living and conscientious, intelligent practice. He has the cordial congratulations of his competitors, and I think all unite in saying that they know of no one more worthy of the honor.

"The Massachusetts Rifle Association will give Mr. Anderton one of the handsome sterling silver record cups, suitably engraved, and the score will be recorded on the record tablet posted in the shooting house, "This great score was made with Union Metallic Cartridge Co. .22 long-rifle cartridges and a Smith & Wesson pistol. Mr. Anderton uses the 11-inch bull's-eye to shoot on, with the 10 ring white, and his sights are made so that he holds on to the white center, a feat few attempt without getting discouraged. finding it almost impossible to hold steadily enough to give any confidence in the holding. The only change which I recall from the ordinary market arm in his pistol is in the sights, which he has built up so as to have the line of vision well away from the barrel, to prevent disturbance by radiation when the metal gets heated. He also occasionally winds the handle of the pistol with electrician's tape."



Mr. Anderton's Full Score.
shot with a Smith and Wesson and U.M.C. .22 caliber Cartridges.

The History of the Tails of Walnut Hill

By Robert Summa

As you can see from the story of Walnut Hill we have a proud heritage and today's shooters of the Hill are carrying on our heritage as the shooting events have increased over the years the buffalo shoot was superb as members participated in great numbers as we had over 40 shooters come to the shooting line it was a very enjoyable day for all. Some history on the buffalo shoot it is shot in honor of one of the finest past presidents and distinguished shooters of the Hill he is my mentor at Walnut Hill Arthur White one of the great past presidents of MRA (Walnut Hill)

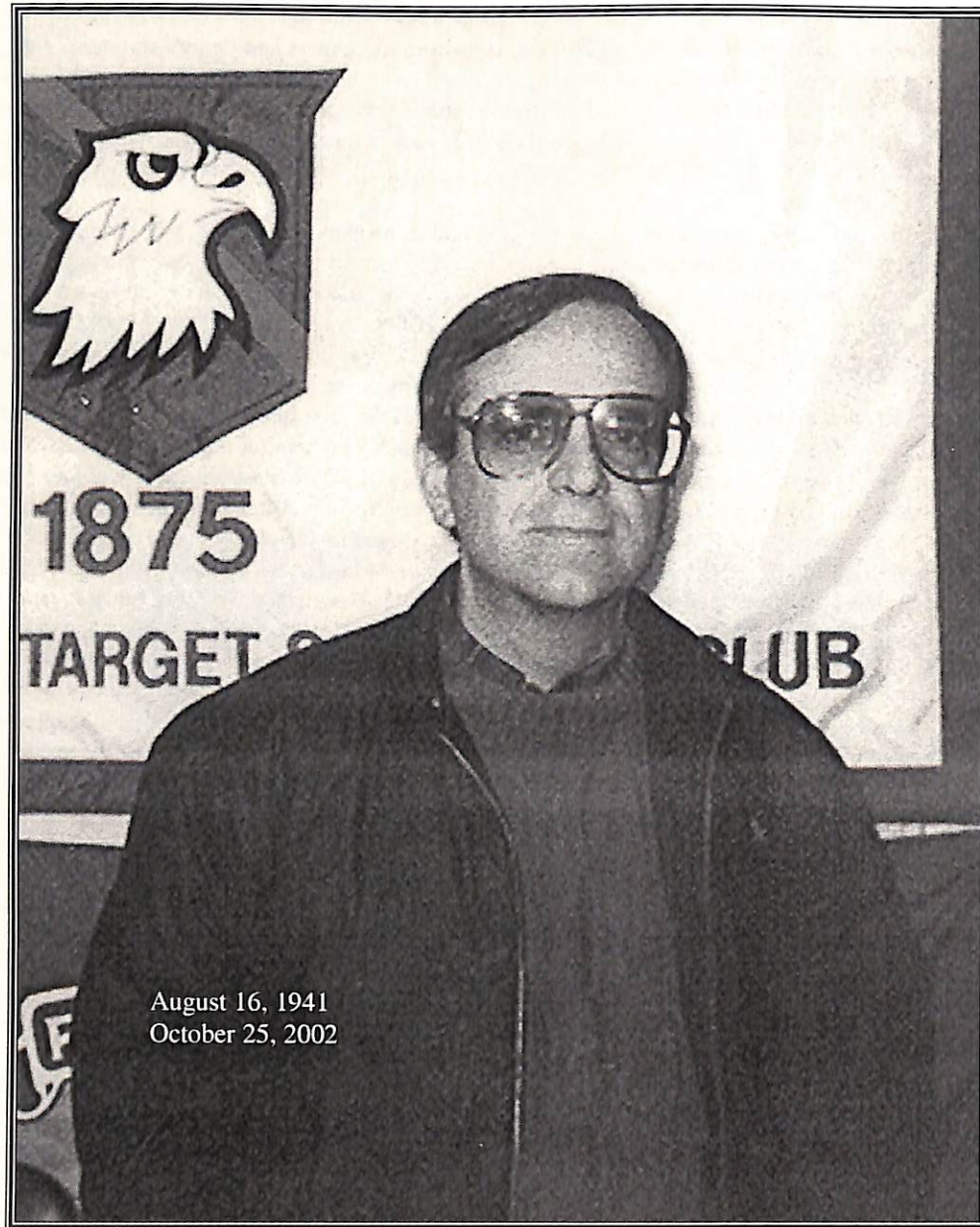
As you look at the past presidents plaque in the club house the names and dates they served as president I have been finding. Quite a bit of information as I search the dark volts of the past and have recorded a large amount of history on the great shooters of the Hill. As I look at the history we all share it brings a smile to my face because it is the very tip of the iceberg of history of the Hill at home I have 3 feet of books and copies of data on MRA and at the club house in my files I have several file draws full of information as I have been writing and publishing the Walnut Hill Legacy that is out of print as the Volumes were sold fast and furied but Tails of Walnut Hill is a great series as it covers the shooters and the little quarks they had and we have stories from the present in the new series and even a photo of Mike Dalelio my mentor on recording MRA's history as I originally never Thought of writing and recording the history of MRA or anything for that fact, then the 125th Anniversary came along and to honor the proud heritage of Walnut Hill we as a board of directors decided to have a gala event at the Hill so a committee was assigned to design and make a unique coin for the celebration but we needed a booklet to go along as we all decided it at the directors meeting Mike Dalelio is a book collector and collects all things on this earth big and small as Beverly will attest to when it came to Mike for ideas he said let's make a book of the history of (MRA Walnut Hill) then I said can some one of you write a story of Walnut Hill for the gala event and you could heir a pin drop in the room but mike spoke up and said you can do it bob you're a printer Oyvay so as it came to pass I was elected to record and print the booklet for the 125th Anniversary and over the years have enjoyed doing and recording the great history of Walnut Hill thank you again for being my mentor as the history would have been lost over the years I really enjoy doing the research of Walnut Hill and all the work on it's preservation for the future members of the Hill to read in Awa as the history is so vast a Note: on today's story for the Tails of Walnut Hill.

This very past Sunday we had some rest shooters on the Summa 100, & 200 yard rifle range Bill was shooting his new bench rifle Thumper it weighs 13 pounds and shoots a one hole group at 200 yards wow Larry Hartnet and Bob Write were shooting there Buffalo rifle you have to see the beautiful rifle on the shooting benches the stocks were out of this world and they were shooting 400 grain bullets wow and a new rest shooter was fine tuning his new rifle and working up some great loads at 200 yards as he had about 40 boxes of ammunition to test with varies powder charges and bullet weights and he recorded every shot in a loge to anilies in his leisure time you had to be there to see the comrouderly as they all enjoyed the warm sunny day at the Hill.

On the sporting clays field the shooting was fast and furied Dave Pointer was (kicking Butt and taking names) Lynne was shooting superb as she kicked Dave Suieds Butt on the sporting clays field she beat him by 2 birds Wow as Dave stammered at the news of the score (we all still love ya) as you can see it's a fun time and we enjoy a good day of shooting on the sporting clays field for the older shooters to help the new members of the Hill to fine tune there shooting abilities as Arthur Sardilo is a great shooting instructor in shotgun as he is a distinguished shooter of the Hill so come on down enjoy a good day of shooting and meet some of the great trap and sporting clays shooters as Dave Suied is a superb trap and sporting clays shooter and he enjoys helping new members shooting trap and clays at Walnut Hill so come on down!

P.S. Dave is the Walnut Hill cribbage champ at the Wednesday night game he kicked butt Whoee!

John Bucci 2002



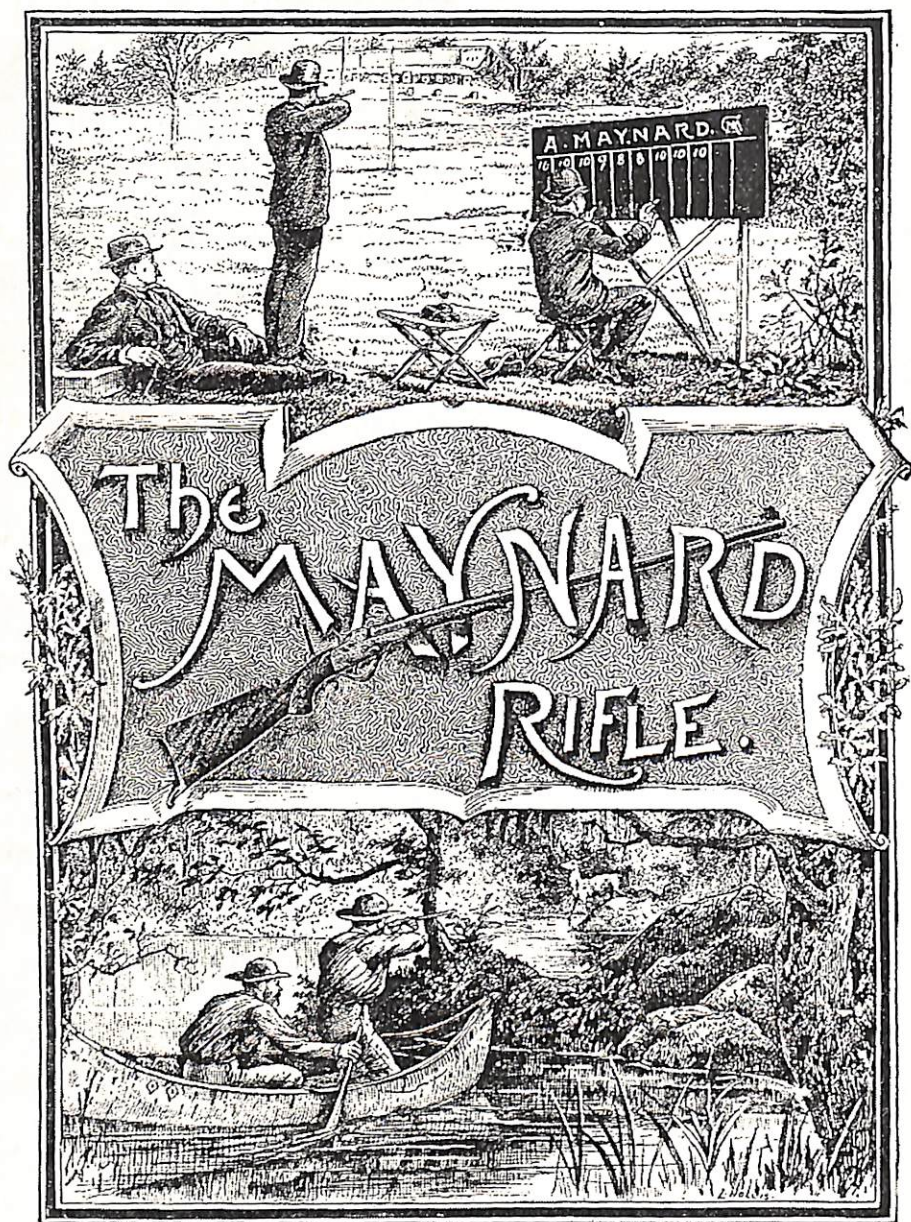
John was a great friend to us all at Walnut Hill
his spirit will live on in our Hearts to the end of time.

A Moment of Silence

A Moment of Silence for John Bucci ~ By Bob Summa

We have recently lost a member of the Walnut Hill shooting fraternity, on October 25, 2002 John Bucci. He was a distinguished shooter whose favorite shooting discipline required using his Winchester Model 52, 22 caliber rifle, at 200 yards in the Gerrish Match.

The match consists of 20 shots in a four-inch bull's-eye target with a two-inch X-center. This is an event that is enjoyed by many cranks at Walnut Hill. John won this match several times, and received a silver cup as champion at that year's Annual Meeting. Because of his masterful shooting of a 22 rifle, John thoroughly enjoyed Crank's Corner on a Sunday morning, complete with a cup of hot coffee, a good cigar, and a great breakfast from our cook, Steve. We all would talk of the best rifle, powder, or 22 caliber ammo for the Gerrish Match ~ which is federal at this time ~ and try to uncover the answers to today's problems. John was amazed at the great, glorious history of Walnut Hill. He enjoyed reading all about it ~ what an era in which to have lived! ~ in each volume of The Legacy of Walnut Hill and the new series called Tales of Walnut Hill. John will truly be missed. He was a member of the distinguished Buffalo Shooters of the Hill, and his photo appears in the third volume of Tales of Walnut Hill. He was a great friend to all, and his spirit will live on at Walnut Hill as long as we remember him in our hearts and minds. His memory will be the eternal flame at Walnut Hill, for his is a large part of our history ~ the greatest story ever told. Go in peace, my brother, for god will be your guide on this next great adventure.



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The Maynard Rifle Book from 1886
The top part of the Cover is of Walnut Hill in that era